■ Elan / C1
The hemline theory: Can skirt length predict the state of economy?

■ Metro / A19
Missionary seeks return of father

■ Business / B1
August inflation seen surging to over 6%

■ Science / B9
New breast cancer drug better than standard cure–study

■ World / A8
Italian journalist hostage killed in Iraq

Tanong ng Bayan / A16
Bawasan ang pork barrel, o tuluyan nang tanggalin?
SUN Smart Globe! WIN A 21" TV! TEXT 2910

Going loco over virgin coco

HINDI ITO TUNGKOL DUN!

By Cesar C. Villariba

EVER since virgin coconut oil landed on the front page of the papers, the air has been saturated with all sorts of virgin claims, not excluding movie starlets who insist they are semi-virgins.

Before anyone gets fried

GOING/A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Saturday, August 28, 2004 ★★ ~~74~~ 86 pages / 9 sections / vol. 19 / no. 262 P18

website: www.inq7.net

President cuts security convoy to save on gas

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

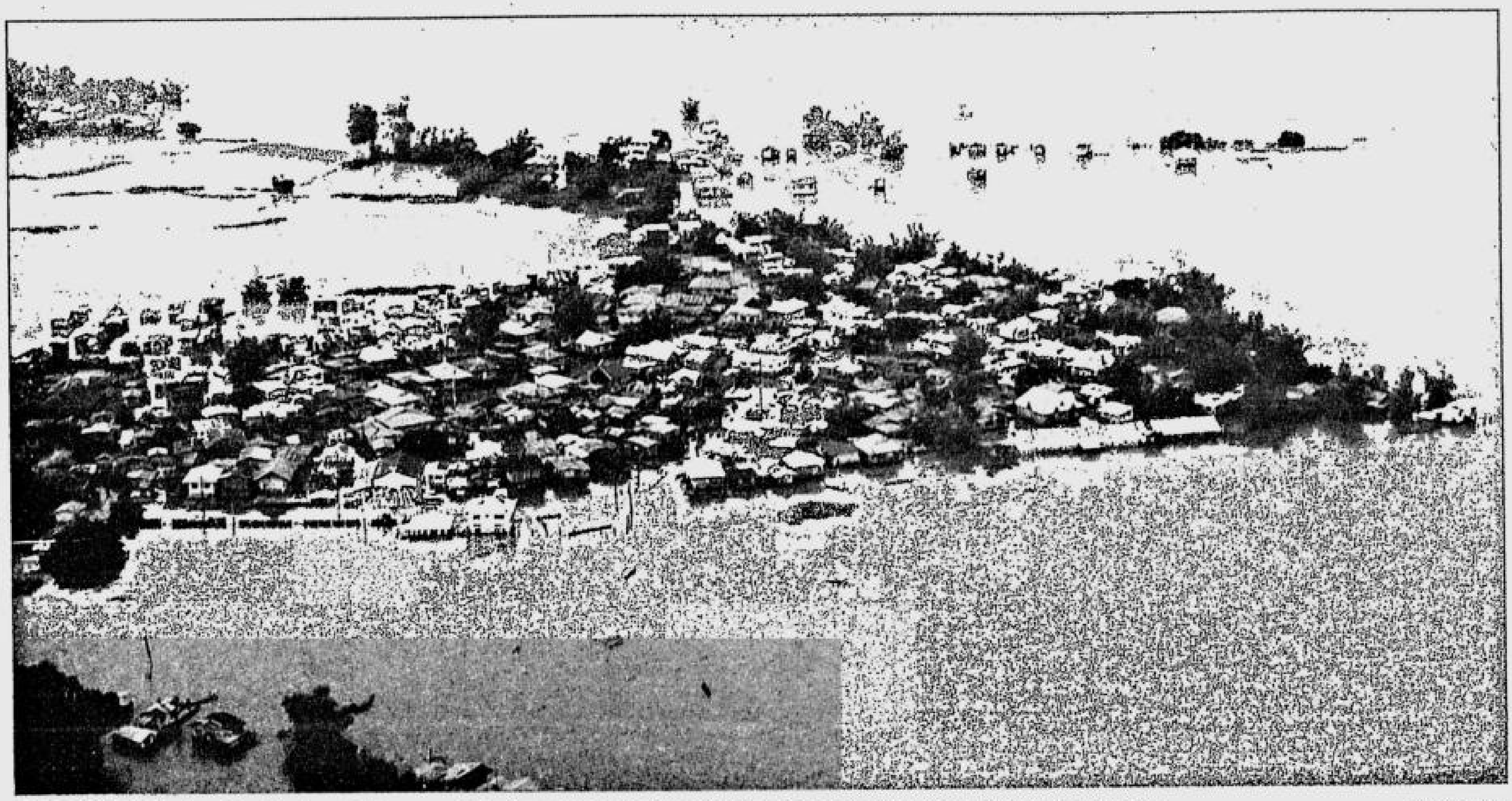
TO SAVE on gas, President Macapagal-Arroyo has cut the number of vehicles in her convoy.

Ms Arroyo made the announcement herself in a radio interview yesterday, wherein she directed Energy Secretary Vince Perez to discuss her administration's energy conservation program. "If I

PRESIDENT/ A6

Prepare for '2 years of pain'

Palace exec tells LGUs: Expect huge cuts in public spending



FLOODWATERS isolate Candaba town in Pampanga following several days of continuous rains. Photo taken from a presidential chopper. VAL HANDUMON

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
and Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

LOCAL governments must prepare for "two years of pain," Malacañang's top communications official said in Baguio City as the Palace set in motion an apparent campaign to rally local officials behind President Macapagal-Arroyo's plan to cut expenditures and retain part of their revenue allotments to help avert fiscal collapse.

Meeting with the Cordillera Regional Development Council (RDC) in Baguio City on Thursday, Silvestre Afable Jr., the Palace's new communications director, said they should expect the pain to come "in the next 18 months to two years" because of the massive government cuts in public expenditures.

In Tacloban City, a regional finance official said local officials must be creative and bold in looking for alternative sources of revenue rather than depending on their share of the internal revenue allotment (IRA).

Teresita Atuel, assistant re-

PREPARE/ A17

3 provinces in state of calamity; death toll hits 17

By PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and PDI Central Luzon Desk

THE DEATH toll is mounting and so is the misery in the wake of one of the worst floods to hit Luzon region in recent years.

And the ordeal for tens of thousands of people appears far from over as the southwest monsoon threatens to dump more rains over a wide area of Luzon still reeling from the battering of the double typhoons Marce and Chaba.

Officials yesterday placed Pampanga, Tarlac and parts of Pangasinan under a state of calamity. Floods breached the Culibangbang earth dike in Tarlac and threatened to breach another in Pampanga.

Pampanga Gov. Mark Lapid alerted residents of some 30 barangays to prepare to evacuate as floodwaters continued to erode the Mandasig Dike in Candaba.

At least 17 people have died in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Benguet and Ifugao, including 11 who drowned. Four were electrocuted while two were buried by mudslides.

President Macapagal-Arroyo met Pampanga officials at the Clark Special Economic Zone and ordered the release of 16 million pesos for the purchase of backhoes for the dredging of silted rivers. She later went to Tarlac.

3 PROVINCES/ A18

RP debt service is ₱646B, says Recto

By Michael Lim Ubac, Cynthia D. Balana and Carlito Pablo

ADMINISTRATION Sen. Ralph Recto yesterday claimed that the amount of taxpayers' money that would go into debt servicing next year was P645.9 billion, not P301.7 billion as Malacañang stated in the proposed 2005 national budget it sent to Congress.

Recto, the chair of the Senate ways and means committee, said the proposed budget stated that only P301.7 billion would be required for debt payments.

But Recto said the amount quoted represented interest payments

RP DEBT/ A17

200 congressmen OK pork cut–JDV

By Carlito Pablo, Christine O. Avendaño and Juliet Labog-Javellana

MORE than 200 of the 236 members of the House are amenable to a slash in their pork barrel in 2005, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. said yesterday.

"Most of them have also agreed to channel 100 percent of their pork barrel to the 10-point agenda" of President Macapagal-Arroyo, he said. "All of a sudden, everyone has become a statesman."

De Venecia said the only remaining question was how deeply the pork barrel, or the Priority Development Assistance Fund, would be cut. He said he would convene on Tuesday a majority caucus, at which selected Cabinet members would be present, to decide on the matter.

"It's now definite that the majority of members of Congress will respond to the appeal of the President," said De Venecia, who had earlier endorsed a 30-percent cut in the annual P65-million pork barrel of each congressman.

200 CONGRESSMEN/ A17

US envoy vows: No retaliation vs Manila

By TJ Burgonio

THE UNITED States may have been flabbergasted with President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to pull out the Filipino troops from Iraq but there won't be any retaliation from Washington.

That much was made clear by US Ambassador to Manila Francis Ricciardone when he spoke before the Asia Society of the Philippines.

Ricciardone said that, while the United States was "disappointed" with the Philippine withdrawal because it set back the Iraqis' aspirations for democracy, it considered maintaining relations with a major ally in Asia more important.

"We certainly are not looking for ways to retaliate or punish friends of long-standing," Ricciardone said in his speech on Thursday. "Such an approach would be beneath the maturity to which both our Presidents have brought our relationship."

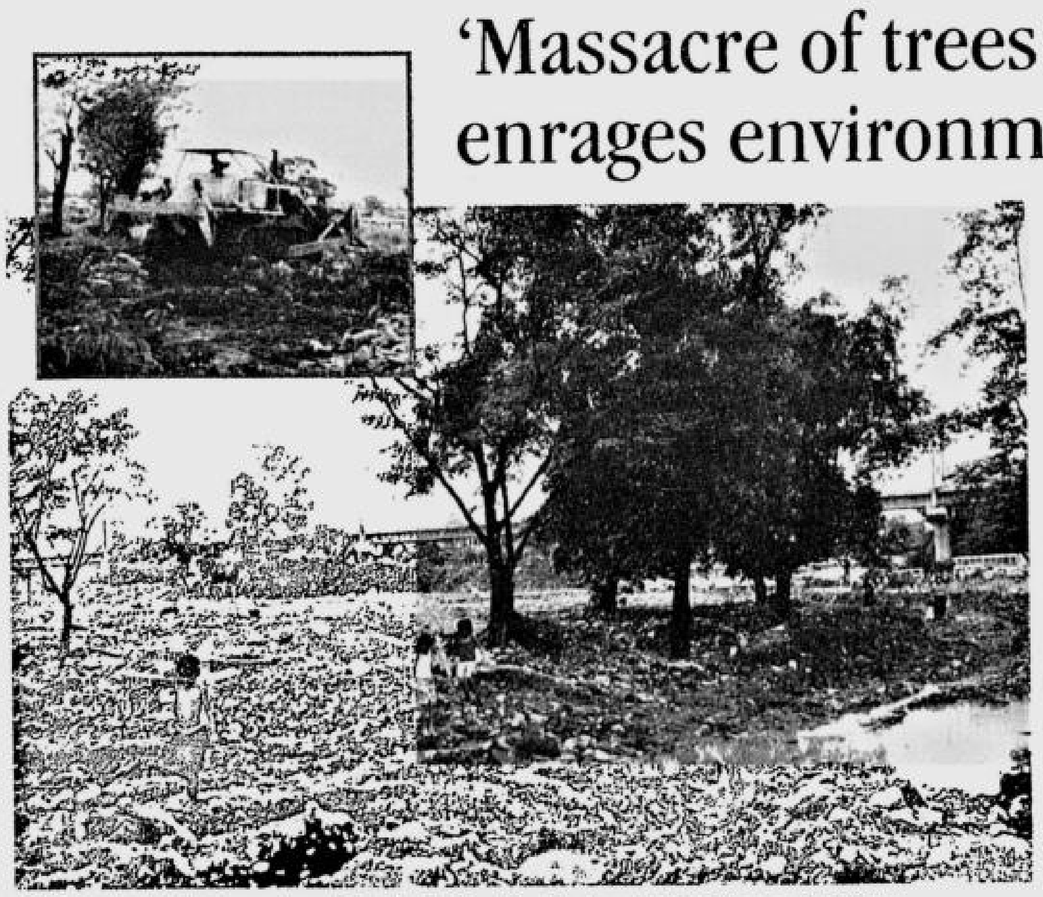
"Our important common interests and values certainly endure," he added.

Ricciardone also gave assurance the United States would not discourage its contractors from employing Filipinos in Iraq.

But he laced his remarks with a hint of criticism against the

US ENVOY/ A18

'Massacre of trees' in QC enrages environmentalists



THIS is what's left of a portion of the Manila Seedling Bank grounds in Quezon City after a construction firm bulldozed some 10,000 young trees on Monday. RUDY ESPERAS

By Volt Contreras

ENVIRONMENTALISTS and the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation Inc. are crying foul over the bulldozing on Monday of nearly 10,000 young trees and saplings in a government property that the bank uses in Quezon City.

The MSBF, which has its garden and nursery at the corner of Edsa and Quezon Avenue, has filed a complaint before the police for malicious mischief against a private construction crew that is clearing the property.

A foundation official said the bulldozing was carried out in the afternoon of Aug. 23 "without prior notice" to the MSBF, resulting in the destruction of "9,936 trees" which were already between seven and 12 feet tall and estimated to be worth P1.25 million.

MASSACRE/ A18

Cannibalism eats up town's tourist image

NARRA, Palawan—The prosperous town of Narra was planning to promote itself as an ecotourism destination but instead has gained notoriety for a grisly cannibalism case that has shocked the Philippines.

Four men now languish in the Narra town jail, awaiting trial for allegedly killing a guest at a wedding party and eating parts of their victim.

International newspapers reported the crime and local television stations carried footage of the victim's fire-blackened bones across the nation.

Narra police chief Perla Bacuel said officials and residents of the town on the island of Palawan

CANNIBALISM / A17

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon will experience occasional rains becoming more frequent over the western sections Northern and Central Luzon. Visayas will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy. SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/28/04

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

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Metro Manila	Occasional Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Monsoon Rains	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Monsoon Rains	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Monsoon Rains	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Monsoon Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Occasional Rains	**Zamboanga**	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Partly Cloudy

No more stumbling blocks to gov't-MILF peace talks

By Alcuin Papa and Rosa-Masy V. de Guzman,
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MORO Islamic Liberation Front rebels are ready to begin peace talks to end the insurgency in the South after the government dropped terrorism charges against the separatists, officials from both sides said yesterday.

"We are happy and we welcome the move because right now there is no more stumbling block to our peace venture with the Philippine government," said rebel spokesperson Eid Kabalu.

The two sides are now waiting for Malaysia, which is hosting the negotiations, to set the date for discussions to begin.

"All parties are ready and talks are at hand," said Press Secretary and presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye.

"We are determined to remove all the roadblocks toward an early start of the formal peace negotiations toward enduring development and stability in Mindanao," he said.

The government announced on Thursday that terrorism charges against 138 MILF guerrillas, including its now deceased founder Salamat Hashim and his top lieutenants, were dropped last week.

The rebels were accused of bombing the wharf and airport in Davao City that killed 38 and wounded more than 100 last year.

The MILF has repeatedly denied having had a hand in the bombings but the military said it had evidence against the group. No other suspects had been named in the bombings.

The MILF signed a ceasefire agreement with the government last year and asked that the charges be dropped as one of the conditions for further peace negotiations.

It also demanded that the military withdraw its troops from the Buliok Complex, a former MILF stronghold, a condition which the government said it had complied with last month.

The justice department dropped the case against the late MILF chair Salamat Hashim, incumbent chair Murad Ibrahim, political affairs chief Ghazali Jaafar, Kabalu, MILF ceasefire chief Benjie Midtimbang and others, despite a recommendation by Davao prosecutors that the charges be pursued.

"We are satisfied. By dropping our pending cases, we are now optimistic of having another round of talks in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia," Kabalu said.

Silvestre Afable Jr., the government's chief negotiator, said the request for the dropping of the charges had been made "a long time ago" and was part of the confidence-building measures to push the talks forward.

"The Philippine panel deeply appreciates that action of the DOJ. It shows also the sensitivity of the DOJ to the peace process," Afable said.

But Kabalu said he could not say when the talks would actually begin. Exploratory talks were tentatively scheduled for last week but fell through. *With a report from AFP*

Charges vs 4 MILF suspects pushed

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE GOVERNMENT will still proceed with the cases against the suspects in the bombing of the Davao wharf and airport last year that killed 38 persons and injured hundreds, the Department of Justice said yesterday.

Acting Justice Secretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez said the government is still pursuing charges of multiple murder and multiple frustrated murder against four suspected members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front who were believed to be behind the blasts.

Gutierrez made the statement in the wake of the dismissal last week of the charges filed against 190 members and leaders of the MILF, including the late MILF chief, Hashim Salamat.

"We dismissed the cases filed against 190 respondents but insofar as the (four) remaining accused, the case will continue," Gutierrez said.

Gutierrez said the cases against suspected MILF members Esmael U. Mamalangkas, Toto M. Akmad, Tohami U. Bagundong and Ting Idar would continue at the Davao City Regional Trial Court.

Gutierrez said the charges against the four accused would continue since their lawyers did not file a petition for review of their cases before the DOJ.

The four MILF members and the 190 other respondents were charged before the Davao RTC for the Davao International Airport bombing on March 4, 2003 which left at least 20 people dead, including American national William Hyde, and the Sasa Wharf bombing that killed 16 persons.

Dilangalen just won't fade away

By Armand N. Nocum

MADE for each other.

Ousted President Joseph Estrada yesterday picked former Rep. Didagen "Digs" Dilangalen to be his spokesperson.

The Filipino public, it seems, has not heard the last of the former president and the unstoppable lawyer from Maguindanao.

Asked why he picked Dilangalen to be his voice from detention, Estrada said the former lawmaker who ran for the Senate and lost, was "very knowledgeable, straightforward and has unquestionable integrity."

"He follows the rules of the law to the letter. He's a Constitutionalist," the former president said of the former congressman, who, to this day, maintains that Estrada was illegally ousted from power.

Dilangalen also has the gall to debate and argue in defense of what he believes in, no matter what.

"Sen. Joker Arroyo even hid and avoided going into open debate with him during the canvassing in the last presidential elections," Estrada said.

Dilangalen, 50, earned the ire of critics for repeatedly saying "Shut up!" to a colleague who tried to stop him from making too much of a note sent by a concerned citizen from the House audience's gallery.

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Schedule of sponsoring local government units:

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Tabaco City Day – Thursday, Sept. 2
Albay Day – Friday, Sept. 3
Regional Day – Saturday, Sept. 4
Naga City/Iriga City Day – Sunday, Sept. 5
Sorsogon City Day – Sunday, Sept. 12
Masbate City Day – Tuesday, Sept. 7
Catanduanes Day – Wednesday, Sept. 8
Legazpi City Day – Thursday, Sept. 9
Camarines Norte Day – Friday, Sept. 10
Sorsogon Province Day – Saturday,Sept. 11
Masbate Province Day – Monday, Sept.6

Acknowledgements:

Senator Jamby Madrigal, Congressman Edcel Lagman, Undersecretary Mario Espinosa, Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte, Tabaco City Mayor Alex Burce, Albay Gov. Fernando Gonzales, Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo, Iriga City Mayor Madelaine Gazmen, Masbate Gov. Antonio Kho, Masbate City Mayor Socrates Tuason, Catanduanes Gov. Leandro Verceles Jr., Legazpi City Mayor Noel Rosal, Camarines Norte Gov. Jesus Typoco, Sorsogon Gov. Raul Lee, Donsol Mayor Salve Ocaya, Gubat Mayor Deogracias Ramos and Sorsogon City Mayor Sally Lee.

DOJ seeks Strunk's extradition anew

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice is set to file next week a second extradition petition against Rod Lauren Strunk, the principal suspect in the gruesome murder of actress Nida Blanca in 2001.

Outgoing acting Justice Secretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez said the DOJ is almost finished preparing the petition against Strunk, who fled to the United States in January 2002 on the pretext of visiting his ailing mother.

"We have gathered enough evidence to refile the petition for extradition. We are looking (at filing it) next week. That is our self-imposed deadline," Gutierrez said.

The DOJ earlier filed a petition for Strunk's extradition but California Judge Gregory Hollows denied it in November last year due to the "conflicting and inconsistent evidence" that were submitted against the American national, who was Blanca's husband.

Gutierrez said the new evidence that the DOJ had gathered in the case would be enough to address the concerns raised by Hollows in his decision junking the first extradition petition.

"We will be able to address all the concerns that were raised. That is the reason why it took us time to refile the petition," Gutierrez said.

She said the decision to refile the petition was reached after consultations with lawyer Harriet Demetriou, the counsel of Kaye Torres, Blanca's daughter.

"Ms Kaye Torres has been updated about the case. (Demetriou) is with us. We hold meetings every two weeks," Gutierrez said.

She said DOJ officials would again meet with Demetriou next week before the second extradition petition is filed.

Gutierrez declined to divulge the new evidence and the identities of the new witnesses in the case, adding that the DOJ would provide details of its extradition petition once it is filed.

She also downplayed concerns that Strunk might have already escaped after he was freed when Hollows dismissed the DOJ's first extradition petition.

"We know he is still in the United States," Gutierrez said.

Strunk has been charged before the Pasig City Regional Trial Court for Blanca's murder but he has refused to return to the Philippines, saying he would not get a fair trial in the country.

NEWSBRIEFS

3 life terms sought for Sef

SYDNEY—Prosecutors Friday demanded three life sentences for a Filipino student who murdered his father, mother and sister in a brutal attack that sent shockwaves through Sydney. Sef Gonzales, 23, was found guilty in May of murdering his parents, Teddy and Mary Loiva, and his 18-year-old sister Clodine in their Sydney home on July 10, 2001. Prosecutors say Gonzales murdered his family to get his hands on a 1.5 million Australian dollar (US$1 million) inheritance. Prosecutor Mark Tedeschi called for Gonzales to be given a life sentence for the "callous" and "premeditated" slayings. *AP*

Let RM awardee travel, China told

A SENATOR called on China Friday to allow a military doctor who blew the whistle on Beijing's SARS cover-up to travel here to receive one of Asia's most prestigious prizes. Chinese authorities have barred Jiang Yanyong, 72, from attending next week's Ramon Magsaysay Awards ceremony in Manila at which he is due to receive a citation for public service, organizers have said. Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, a son of the late president, said he had written to the Chinese Embassy in Manila requesting it to facilitate Jiang's travel papers. *AFP*

DOJ affirms libel case vs Ninez

THE Department of Justice has affirmed the P15.1 libel case which First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo filed against opposition leader Linda Olaguer-Montayre and a newspaper publisher. In a one-page resolution, acting Justice Secretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez denied due to a technicality the petition of Tribune editor-in-chief Ninez Cacho-Olivares and reporter Sherwin Olaes to have the case dismissed. Arroyo charged Montayre, Olivares and Olaes with libel on April 8, 2003 after a story came out in the Tribune alleging that he received P23.5 billion for helping send 100,000 young Filipino women to work in Japan as prostitutes. Montayre was the source quoted in the story. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Jury awards $551,000 to Pinay

LOS ANGELES—A Californian jury on Thursday awarded $551,000 in damages to Filipina immigrant who claimed she was kept as a domestic slave for a year by a Hollywood movie executive. Former schoolteacher Nena Ruiz testified in a civil trial that James Jackson, Sony Pictures Entertainment's vice president of legal affairs, and his wife refused to allow her leave their employ, paid her a pittance and made her sleep in a dog's bed. "We're very pleased," said Dan Stormer, a lawyer who represented Ruiz at the trial in the Los Angeles area of Santa Monica. *AFP*

What crisis? Palace hikes OPS budget

DESPITE calls for the adoption of austerity measures, the Palace wants to ensure that it has enough funds to buff President Macapagal-Arroyo's image amid soaring oil prices, inflation and unemployment.

Malacañang has jacked up by P60 million to P850.404 million the 2005 budget of the Office of the Press Secretary (OPS) which oversees the President's entire media and information arm.

The OPS is one of only 24 agencies that saw their budget allocation increase in the 2005 budget.

"Tough times require cuts in expenses, but we must meet fair and reasonable obligations. The P60 million increase in the OPS budget covers unavoidable fixed obligations such a insurance premium and retirement outlays that must be paid as a matter of course," said Communications Director Silvestre Afable said:

Afable is now the President's media czar with the signing of Executive Order No. 348 creating the Office of the Communications Director (OCD) that would lord it over the entire media and information arm of Malacañang.

But contrary to the President's declaration she would push for a leaner bureaucracy, EO 348 expanded rather than streamlined Malacañang's media and information units with the addition of the OCD, his deputy and his chief of staff, a communication research group, and a crisis communication team.

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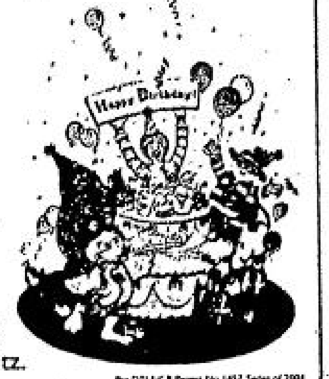

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GMA agrees to reset ARMM polls to May 2005, says solon

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is set to certify as urgent a proposal seeking to postpone the elections in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao from Nov. 26, 2004 to May 9, 2005 for lack of money.

House Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin said the President has agreed to a poll postponement during the recent Legislative-Executive Development Council (Ledac) meeting due to the lack of funds and preparation by the Commission on Elections.

"The President made known her pleasure to reset the ARMM election. She agreed to certify it for the urgent passage of our consolidated bill," Salapuddin said.

He also noted that since the 2004 national budget was a reenacted budget for 2003, there was no appropriation for the ARMM election for this year.

During the Ledac meeting, Salapuddin said House Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. moved for the bill's passage before Congress goes on recess and that the senators present agreed to it.

Salapuddin said the critical issue dividing legislators was whether to allow the incumbent ARMM officials to stay in office on a holdover capacity or not.—*Cynthia D. Balana*

Conference on ethnicity set in Baguio

THE PHILIPPINE Studies Association (PSA), in cooperation with the University of the Philippines Baguio, will hold the 4th National Philippine Studies Conference on Sept. 16-18 at The Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant, Baguio City.

The conference theme, "Ethnic Identities in the Philippines," covers multidisciplinary perspectives and approaches to ethnicity vis a vis such issues as environment, practice and modernity, cultural politics of identity formation, identity and agency, colonial mediation, self and gender, literature, development, history and popular culture.

The keynote speaker is Prof. Ponciano Bennagen.

The conference fee is P3,300, to cover lodging per participant on triple sharing for three days, conference materials, meals and access to all sessions. The opening program and exhibit starts at 3 p.m. on Sept. 16 at UP Baguio.

For inquiries, contact Bernardita R. Churchill at nitachurchill@hotmail.com or (02) 921-4575 and (02) 926-1347; Eufracio Abaya at boiabaya@pacific.net.ph or (02) 928-1928; Francis A. Gealogo at fgealogo@ateneo.edu; or Rowena Reyes-Boquiren at rowie@yahoo.com, rrboquiren@upb.edu.ph or (074) 442-2427.

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GLS Sport M/T (Gas)	795,000	79,250	33,483	23,993	19,300	16,973	15,142
GLS Sport M/T (Dsl)	805,000	80,750	33,904	24,294	19,543	17,187	15,332
GLS Sport A/T (Gas)	848,000	107,200	35,716	25,592	20,587	18,105	16,151
Grand Sport M/T (Dsl)	935,000	105,250	39,380	28,218	22,699	19,962	17,808
Grand Sport A/T (Gas)	980,000	127,000	41,275	29,576	23,792	20,923	18,665

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Palace to oil firms: Hold off further hikes

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG yesterday appealed to local oil companies to put the brakes on further increases in the pump prices of petroleum products as world crude oil prices retreated for the fifth straight day.

"We have seen a drop in last few days in the price of oil and we hope that this will be a signal to oil distributors to hold off or cushion price increases and ease the anxieties of the public," said new Press Secretary and presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye. "We would like to look for long-term solutions and we would appreciate a respite for average customers."

Malacañang made the appeal in the wake of softening oil prices sparked by renewed hopes of ending the three-week uprising in the Iraqi city of Najaf after Iraq's most revered Shi'ite religious authority, Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, returned home from Britain to intervene in the stand-off.

US crude futures have tumbled 37 cents to $43.10 a barrel or $6 off record highs last week as fears of disruptions in Iraq's oil supply further fanned fears that world oil producers were unable to keep up with surging global demand, particularly from China's vibrant economy.

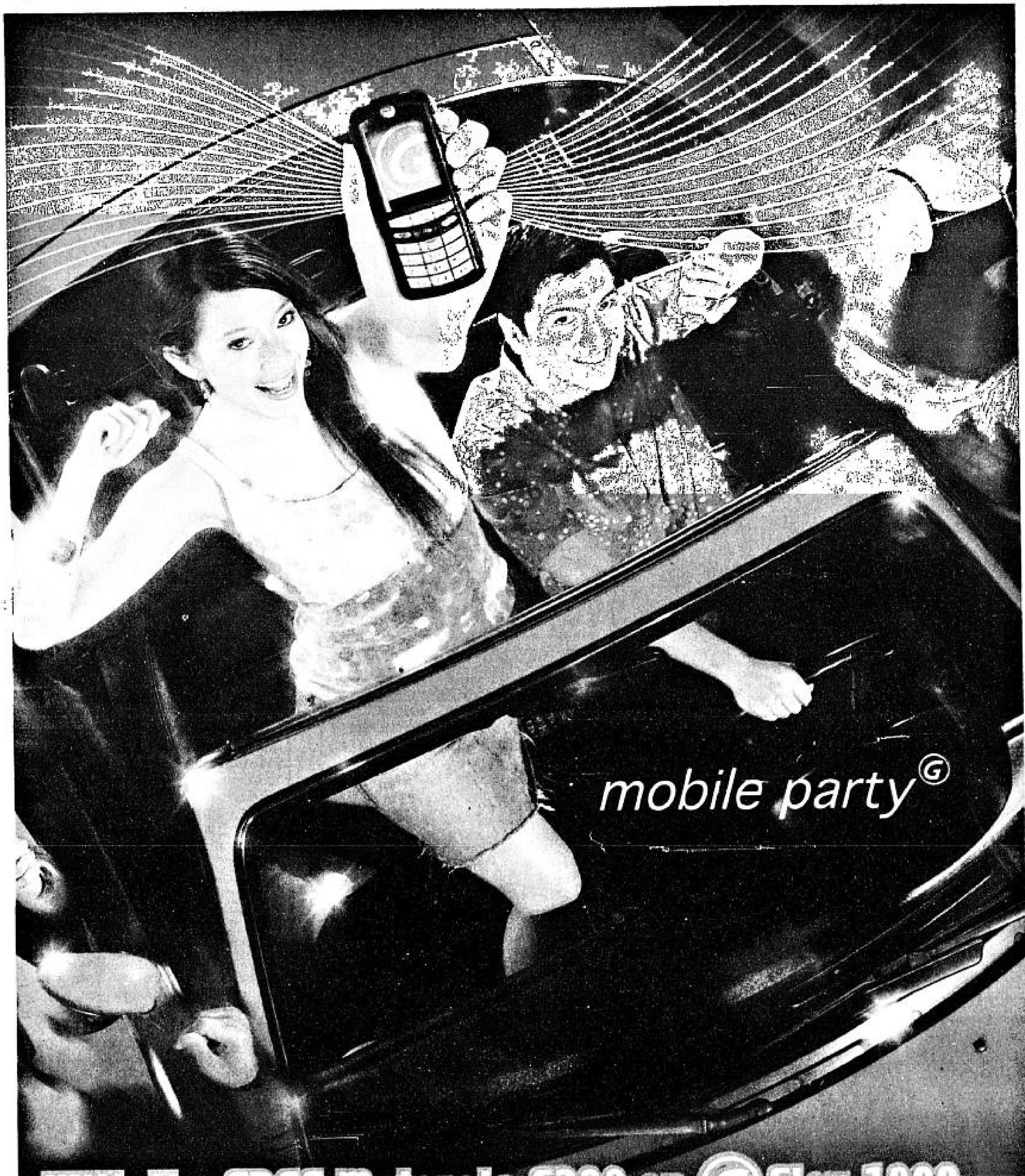
Consumer and Oil Price Watch chair Raul T. Concepcion said Malacañang was referring to the planned 30-centavo per liter hike in prices on Monday, Aug. 30. He said he agreed with Malacañang's position to review the oil industry's prices.

Concepcion said President Macapagal-Arroyo had wanted to defer the Aug. 30 hike to give regulators and industry players time to sit down and assess whether the weekly price increases this month were either over or short of the increase in oil prices.

Concepcion said the findings following the review of retail prices vis-a-vis import prices would determine whether more increases were needed. Small industry players and the Big Two—Petron and Shell—are set to raise further their prices on Sept. 12 and 19, respectively.

INQUIRER research data showed that since oil prices started climbing to record highs this month, the oil companies have raised prices twice in the last two weeks by a combined 65 centavos per liter.

Malacañang's appeal for no more price increases is not compulsory as the oil refiners operate in a deregulated market where prices are determined by free market competition.



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President cuts security convoy to save on gas

From page A1

may add, I even reduced my security convoy," she said.

The conservation program includes, among others, a mandatory 10-percent cut in the fuel and power consumption of government vehicles and offices as well as a ban on the purchase of government cars.

Col. Delfin Bangit, chief of the Presidential Security Group (PSG), said five "non-essential" vehicles had been taken off Ms Arroyo's convoy upon her instructions.

A security complement of four police motorcycles, four Safari vehicles, four police patrol cars and an ambulance usually trails Ms Arroyo's bulletproof limousine. The convoy also includes the "add-on" vehicles of her protocol and Presidential Management Staff officials, as well as of the RTVM (Radio TV Malacañang) team.

The actual number of vehicles joining the convoy depends on the prevailing situation.

When there are "threats" on the President's life, she gets a "full complement" of security men and vehicles, the exact number of which Bangit refused to disclose.

Bangit said that he did away with a utility vehicle and the communications van, and that the "add-on" vehicles had been "asked to move ahead" of the President's convoy.

According to Bangit, a shorter convoy is also advantageous to the PSG because it can be maneuvered quite easily.

But he said the reduction in vehicles was made up for with beefed-up security measures—additional firepower and bulletproofing.

"We support the President's austerity program but we will not compromise her security," Bangit told the INQUIRER.

Bangit said the PSG, the unit in charge of securing the First Family as well as visiting dignitaries, was also observing the President's energy conservation program.

He said Tuesdays and Thursdays would be "carless days" at the PSG Park headquarters.

"It means that we don't use cars in going to our offices at the PSG Park. We just walk," Bangit said, adding that the use of air-conditioning units at the PSG offices was also being limited.

Patrol cars

Speaking of vehicles, top officials of the Philippine National Police have been ordered to surrender their service cars for conversion into patrol units.

The order issued by Director Avelino Razon, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, was one of the policies laid down by the new PNP leadership in compliance with Ms Arroyo's call for nationwide austerity measures.

Razon has given up his staff car, a Toyota Altis sedan. It is now the NCRPO's mobile patrol unit and comes complete with an overhead blinker, a radio and police markings.

"Surrendering their staff cars should be no big deal because most senior officers have their private vehicles, anyway," Razon said.

By the time all concerned officers have complied with the new policy, at least 20 service vehicles would have been added to the NCRPO's mobile force, Razon said.

The tiny mobile force comes up to a pathetic 30 percent, according to a PNP report released early this week. But the NCRPO yesterday received an additional 50 patrol cars.

PNP chief Edgar Aglipay said senior police officers would have their service vehicles again after the economy had stabilized.

"In the meantime, we all have to make sacrifices," he said.

Aglipay made his own "sacrifice" by allocating P10 million from his budget as PNP chief for the use of field units in Metro Manila.

The allocation jacked up a patrol officer's daily meal allowance from P30 to P90.

From the Aglipay budget, all NCRPO units will also start receiving by September an additional 16,000 liters of gasoline monthly, on top of their regular gas allocation.

Add this benefit to the 250 brand-new raincoats and 250 pairs of heavy-duty boots that each of the five Metro Manila police districts got, and there should be no more reason for patrol officers to disappear when it rains, PNP officials said.

Former President Fidel Ramos said the government and the Filipinos should not panic over the fiscal situation.

Ramos told reporters yesterday that the problem could be solved with "teamwork" between the executive and legislative branches and with the help of the local governments and the private sector.

Teamwork, he said, "involves caring, sharing and daring for each other, the latter being the hardest part because it means to give more than to take and to sacrifice for the common good."

'4 C's solution'

He repeated his "Four C's Solution" to a crisis: consolidate the national team, continue the reforms, compete to win, and clean up the unfinished businesses, such as the longtime court litigations and peace talks with insurgents. *With a report from Christian V. Esguerra, Jerome Aning*

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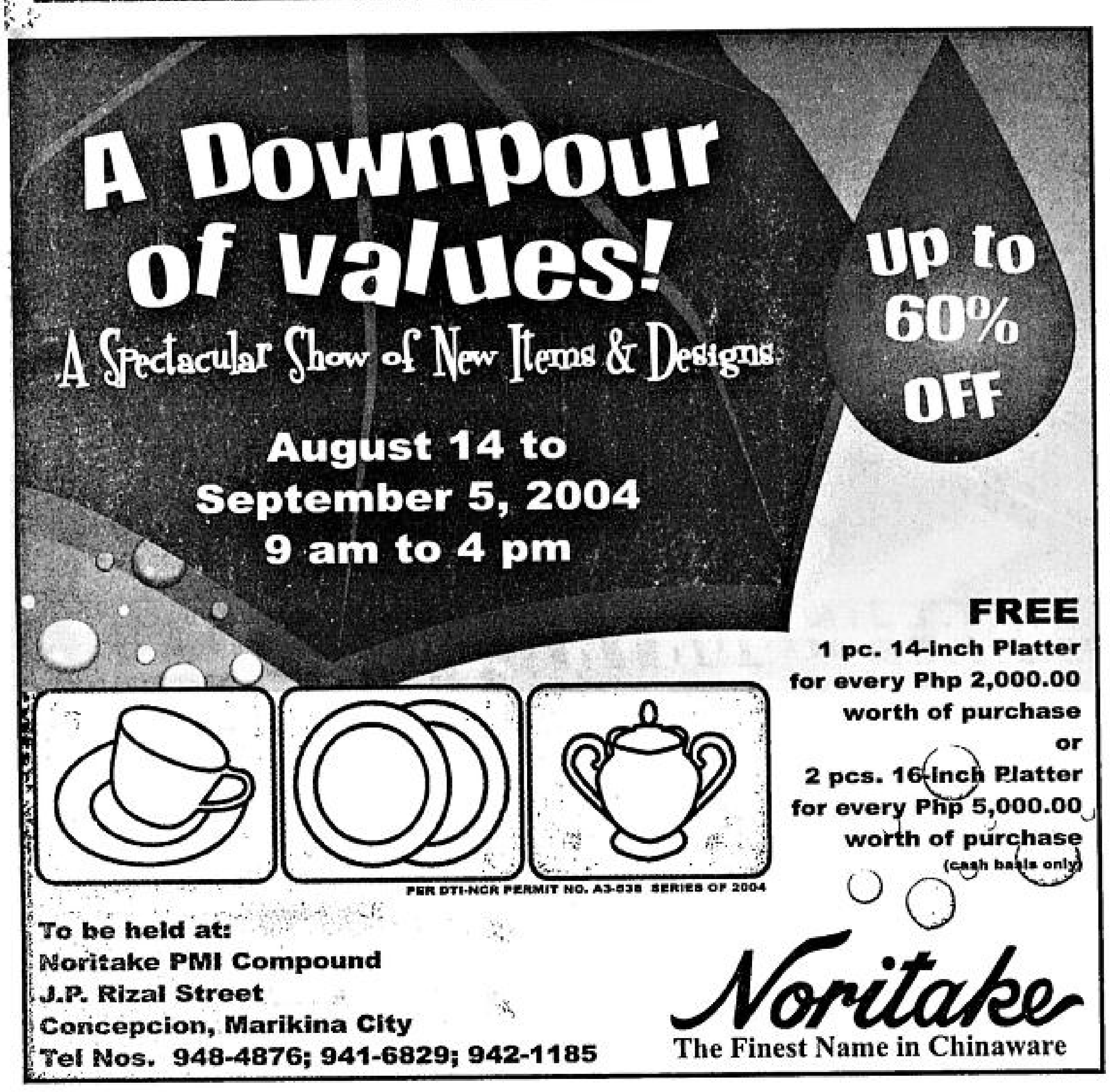
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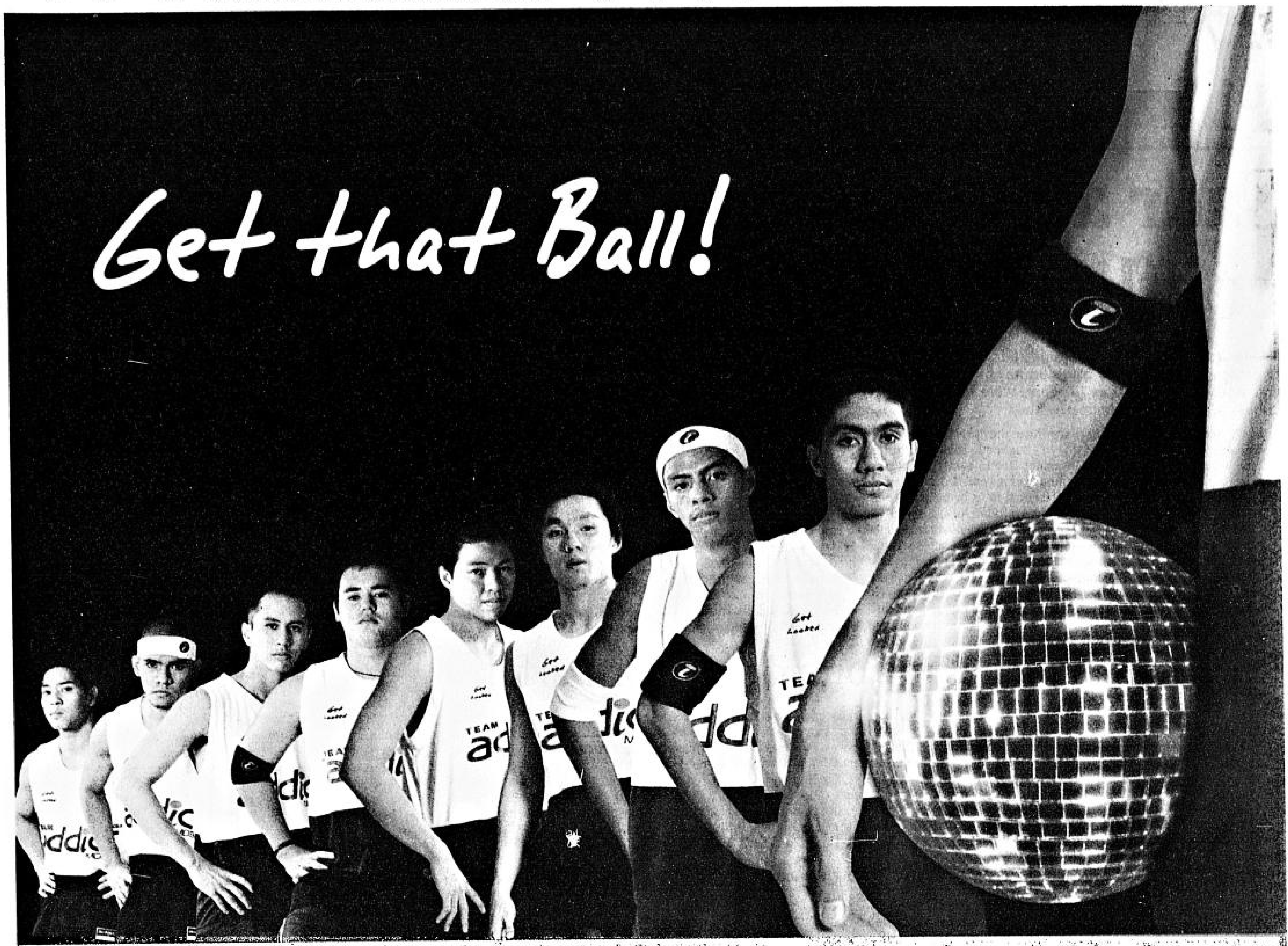
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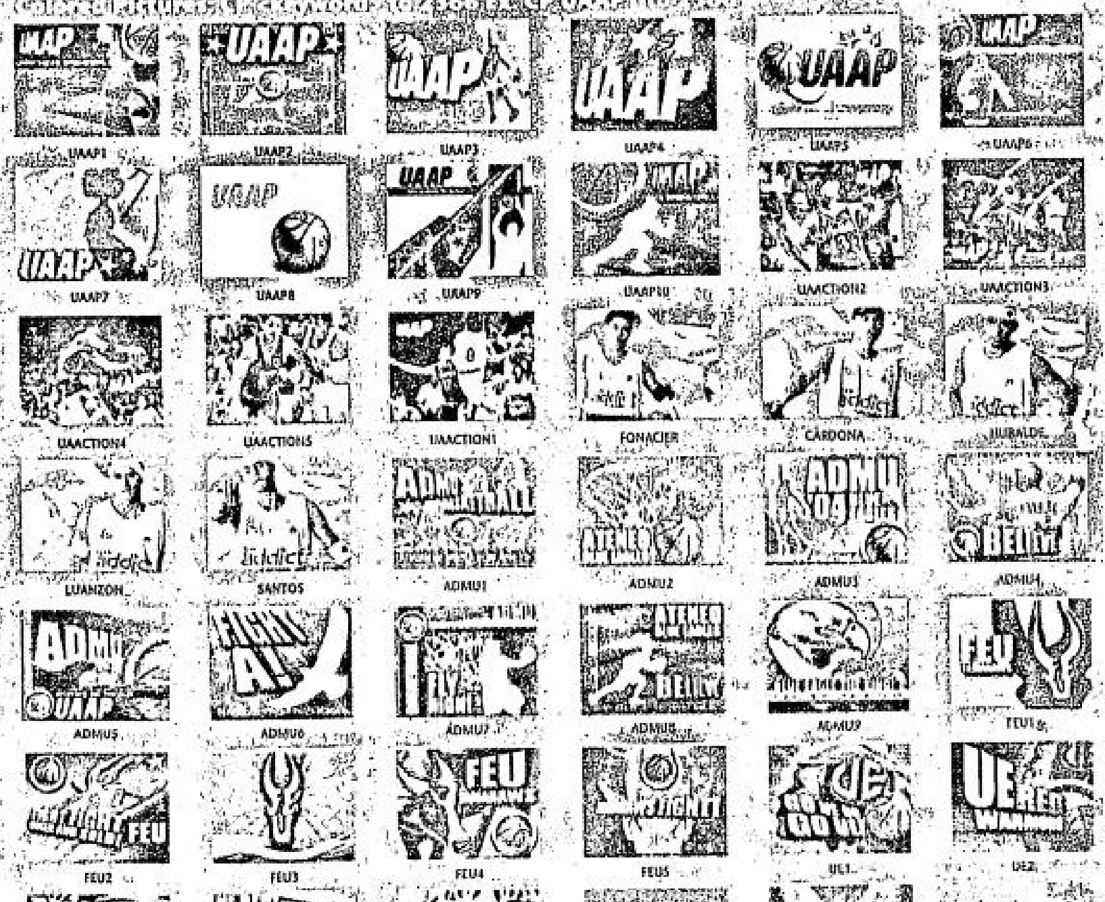
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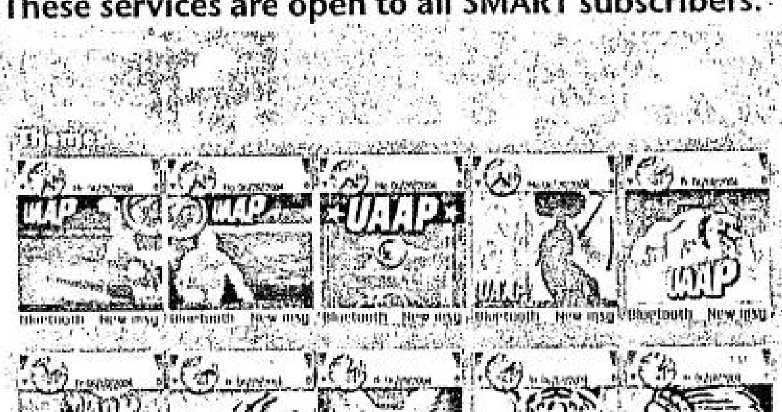
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Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Sadr agrees to end Najaf conflict; 74 dead in Kufa

NAJAF, Iraq—Rebel cleric Moqtada Sadr bowed Thursday to demands laid down by Iraq's Shiite spiritual leader to end the conflict in Najaf, as 74 people were killed in a mortar attack and shooting in nearby Kufa.

Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, accompanied by thousands of faithful, was granted a 24-hour truce by Baghdad and the US military to negotiate an end to 22 days of fighting against forces loyal to rebel cleric Moqtada Sadr.

"Sayed (honorific) Moqtada Sadr has agreed to Grand Ayatollah Sistani's conditions," Sistani spokes-person Hamid Khaffaf told reporters outside the villa where the elderly ayatollah was staying in the holy city.

In Baghdad, State Minister Kassem Daoud said the government had accepted the initiative "presented to us by his eminence Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani."

The elderly ayatollah, treated to a euphoric welcome after returning from medical treatment in London on Wednesday, has signalled that he wants all armed groups to disarm and leave in Najaf and Kufa, along with all foreign troops.

In his five-point plan, Iraqi police would also resume responsibility for security and law and order in the two cities and the interim government would compensate those who have suffered in the weeks of heavy fighting.

Najaf Governor Adnan al-Zorfi told Al-Arabiya television that Sadr's Mehdi Army were expected to evacuate their Imam Ali shrine stronghold at 10 a.m. on Friday, where they have been holed up for four months.

But the hopes of peace came after a double mortar attack and shooting in Najaf's twin city of Kufa that left 74 people dead and more than 350 wounded.

Eight pipelines in southern Iraq were also sabotaged, hampering vital crude exports, officials said.

"We cannot distinguish between those who died in the bombing of the Kufa mosque and those who were killed in the demonstration," a health ministry spokesman said as doctors struggled to cope with the casualties.

Pain-wracked and bloodied patients, mostly men, were stretched out in the corridors and garden of the Middle Euphrates hospital despite the intense heat. *AFP*

Red Cross launches major aid push for Darfur

KHARTOUM, Sudan—Trucks carrying food and equipment for shelter and water supplies set out for Darfur from the Sudanese capital Friday at the start of a major aid push by the international Red Cross.

As the eight trucks left, more trucks and other vehicles were flown in from Geneva in what International Committee of the Red Cross spokesperson Julia Bassam said was the organization's biggest operation in the world.

From now on, Bassam said, convoys will be leaving from Red Cross warehouses every two days. Meanwhile, a giant cargo plane was making six trips from Geneva to ferry in 720 metric tons of equipment ranging from trucks to medicine.

The operation began as the Aug. 30 deadline approached for Sudan to comply with a UN Security Council resolution demanding it improve the humanitarian and security situation in Darfur, scene of what the United Nations has called the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Since early 2003, thousands are believed to have died in Darfur and many more have fled their homes.

The Sudanese government denies charges it has backed ethnic Arab militias accused of horrific attacks on ethnic African civilians in Darfur and says it wants to work with the international community to restore calm there.

Bassam said the Red Cross was struck by the ease with which it was able to get Sudanese government cooperation and authorization for the aid flights and convoys. UN officials in recent days have offered similar assessments after aid agencies had complained in the past about the government preventing them from getting workers and aid to Darfur.

"There certainly has been a marked improvement over the last month," Bassam told The Associated Press. "It looks like the international pressure so far has brought about this change." *AP*

IKAW AT ANG SSS

Questions & Answers
on Social Security

Annual Confirmation sa lahat ng pensyonado ng SSS

Ano itong *annual confirmation* para sa lahat ng pensyonado at *annual physical examination* para sa *total disability pensioners*?

Ito ay isang paraan na isinasagawa ng SSS para sa mga pensyonado ng *retirement, death* at *total disability* upang makatiyak na ang tamang halaga ng benepisyo ay naibabayad ng SSS sa tamang tao. Ito ay nakasaad sa *Circular No.* 15-P na ipinalabas ng SSS bilang paalaala sa lahat ng mga pensyonado nito.

Ano ang dapat gawin ng pensyonado?

May liham na ipinapadala ang SSS sa mga pensyonado. Mahalaga na **hintayin** ang *official notice* na ito bago pumunta sa SSS. Sa oras na matanggap ito, makipagkita kaagad sa pinakamalapit na tanggapan ng SSS dala ang naturang liham.

May iba pa bang dokumento na dapat dalhin?

Maliban sa liham mula sa SSS, kailangang dalhin din ang SSS *digitized* ID o E-6 (*acknowledgment stub*) at dalawang *valid* IDs na ipinakita sa SSS nang magpa*data capture*. Kung walang SSS *digitized* ID o E-6 (*acknowledgment stub*), magdala ng dalawang *valid* IDs (ang isa ay may retrato at petsa ng kapanganakan), para sa *data capture*.

Paano kung nagbago ng tirahan o address ang pensyonado?

Makipag-ugnayan sa pinakamalapit na sangay ng SSS. Mayroong *form* para sa *change of address* na maaaring punuan ng pensyonado kung nagbago na ng tirahan. Kaya, importante na ipagbigay-alam kaagad sa SSS ang paglipat ng tirahan o *address*.

Paano kung ang pensyonado ay nakatira na sa ibang bansa?

Para sa mga pensyonado na nasa ibang bansa na, kailangang ipadala sa SSS ang kopya ng *passport* at **alinman sa mga sumusunod na dokumento** na isinalin sa ingles:

Para sa *Retiree/Death pensioner – Certificate of appearance* mula sa *Philippine Embassy/Consulate* o SSS *Foreign Representative Office* o *Social Security Institution* ng isang bansa kung saan ang SSS ay mayroong *bilateral agreement*. Ang mga bansang ito ay ang *Austria, Canada, France, Netherlands, Quebec, Spain, Switzerland*, at *United Kingdom*. Ang mga *SSS foreign offices* ay matatagpuan sa *Abu Dhabi, Al Khobar, Australia, Brunei, Doha Qatar, Hongkong, Jeddah, Kuwait, Milan, Riyadh, Rome, San Francisco, Singapore* at *Taipei*.

- *Medical Certificate* na magpapatunay sa *health condition* ng pensyonado mula sa alinmang *licensed physician* at ito ay dapat may pangalan niya at *license number* o ang katumbas nito. Ang eksaminasyon ay dapat ginawa sa loob ng tatlong (3) buwan mula sa petsa na tinanggap ng unang pinanggalingang *Post Office* ang *pensioner's reply*.

Para sa *Total Disability pensioner – Physical Examination Report* mula sa alinmang *licensed physician* at ito ay dapat may pangalan niya at *license number* o ang katumbas nito. Ang eksaminasyon ay dapat ginawa sa loob ng tatlong (3) buwan mula sa petsa na tinanggap ng unang pinanggalingang *Post Office* ang *pensioner's reply*.

Sa mga pensyonado na nasa Pilipinas ngunit hindi na kayang magsadya sa SSS, ano ang dapat gawin?

Para sa *Retiree/Death pensioner*, magsumite ang kamag-anak o *guardian* nito ng *Medical Certificate* na magpapatunay sa *health condition* ng pensyonado mula sa alinmang *licensed physician* at ito ay dapat may pangalan niya at *PRC license number* at *sketch* ng tirahan ng pensyonado. Ang eksaminasyon ay dapat ginawa sa loob ng tatlong (3) buwan mula sa petsa ng pagsumite ng *medical certificate*.

- *Certification of pensioner's existence* mula sa mga institusyong nangangalaga nang pangmatagalan tulad ng *National Center for Mental Health, leprosarium, drug rehabilitation center, retirement/nursing home, Bureau of Prison*, at iba pa.

Para sa *Total Disability Pensioners – Physical Examination Report* na ginawa ng alinmang *licensed physician* at dapat ito ay may pangalan niya at *PRC license number* at *sketch* ng tirahan ng pensyonado. Ang eksaminasyon ay dapat ginawa sa loob ng tatlong buwan mula sa petsa ng pagsumite ng *medical certificate*.

Ano ang mangyayari kung natugunan na ang mga hinihinging ito?

Makaaasa ang mga pensyonado nang patuloy na pagtanggap ng pensyon mula sa SSS. Kaya't upang di mahinto ang buwanang pensyon, makipagtulungan sa isinasagawa ng SSS na *annual confirmation* para sa lahat ng pensyonado at *annual physical examination* para sa *total disability pensioners*.

For more information visit the SSS office nearest you or call 920-6446 upto 55 or e-mail at

Kabalikat mo sa buhay!

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SSS 2003-15

BALDONI in a video broadcast on Al-Jezeera, Aug. 24, released by a militant group calling itself "The Islamic Army in Iraq." AP

Islamist group kills Italian hostage in Iraq

DOHA—An Islamist group calling itself the Islamic Army in Iraq has executed Italian journalist Enzo Baldoni after holding him for a week, Arabic-language satellite news channel Al-Jazeera reported late Thursday.

The Qatar-based channel said it had received a videotape showing the journalist after his execution, but had decided not to release it as it would be too shocking for viewers.

Al-Jazeera quoted a statement attributed to the kidnappers saying the Italian had been slain under sharia law.

It said the decision "was taken after the refusal by Italy to reply favorably to the demand (by the group) to withdraw its soldiers from Iraq within 48 hours."

Baldoni's captors had on Tuesday threatened to kill their hostage unless Italy withdrew its 3,000 troops from Iraq within 48 hours. Their threat came in a video also broadcast by Al-Jazeera.

The Italian government, a staunch supporter of the US-led invasion of Iraq, initially rejected the kidnappers' ultimatum, saying it would maintain its "civil and military" presence in the oil-rich country.

But early on Thursday Italy's Foreign Minister Franco Frattini said Rome was prepared to pull its soldiers out if the interim government in Baghdad requested it.

Italian sources in Iraq confirmed the Al-Jazeera report of Baldoni's death to Italy's Ansa news agency.

"These are horrifying pictures," said one Italian source who had seen the videotape. An Italian civil servant was heading for Qatar to obtain a copy of the video, Ansa said.

The agency said the video, which had been seen by Italy's ambassador to Qatar, was "brief and bloody." Baldoni had not been decapitated but shot, it said.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi reacted immediately after Baldoni's death had been confirmed.

"There are no words for an inhuman act which at one swoop wipes out centuries of civilization and returns us to the dark times of barbarism," Berlusconi said in a message of condolences to the family of the 56-year-old journalist, who was married with two children. *AFP*

S'pore hospital slashes prices

SINGAPORE—Singapore's largest private medical group said Friday it had cut charges for key services to fend off mounting competition from Thailand for Southeast Asia's lucrative expatriate patient market..

"We must not price ourselves out of the marketplace," Dr. Loo Choon Yong, chair of Raffles Hospital, told a news conference.

Singapore is aiming to attract one million foreign patients a year by 2010 but also competes with emerging players like India and Malaysia, prompting hospitals here to take a look at their costs and streamline operations.

Loo said that apart from competitive prices, Singapore boasts a high degree of ethical and professional standards comparable to those of the best hospitals in Boston and London.

The Raffles Hospital is now offering heart bypass surgery for a fixed price of about US$9,200, no matter how many grafts are involved and inclusive of up to eight nights' stay in a four-bed ward.

Hospital officials said this was 25 percent lower than before. They claimed that while Thai rivals charge lower basic fees, they impose extra charges for additional grafts beyond the first.

And for operations like total knee or hip replacement, Raffles, whose international clients are led by Indonesians, claimed its prices are now cheaper than those of comparable Thai private hospitals.

Loo said patients do not consider only price when choosing Singapore. "We have the safety factor that must surely be very, very important," he said. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Kuwait firm bows to kidnappers

DUBAI—The Kuwaiti firm which has seven truck drivers held hostage in Iraq has decided to halt operations in the troubled country, bowing to the kidnappers' condition for their release, it said Friday. "The Kuwait Gulf and Link (KGL) has decided to halt activities in Iraq completely," KGL spokeswoman Rana Abu Zaineh told the Dubai-based al-Arabiya television station. "We do not have at the moment any presence in Iraq," she added. On Thursday, a group calling itself the Secret Islamic Army (SIA) said in a statement that it would free the seven hostages it has been holding for more than a month as soon as their company says it will no longer operate in Iraq. *AFP*

Pinochet's immunity revoked

PINOCHET

SANTIAGO—Chile's Supreme Court on Thursday revoked immunity from prosecution of former dictator Augusto Pinochet, who faces charges over the deaths of political opponents during his 1973-1990 rule. Relatives of those who disappeared while under the dictatorship's custody said Pinochet, 88, bears responsibility for the deaths. During the nearly 17 years of Pinochet's rule, some 3,000 people, by official accounting, were murdered or "disappeared" while under state custody and are presumed to have been murdered. Pinochet has avoided trial for any of them. In its ruling, the country's highest court upheld a lower court decision clearing the way for Pinochet's prosecution for the presumed deaths under Operation Condor, a top-secret program among South American dictatorships. *AFP*

Palestinian killed in Gaza blast

GAZA CITY—An Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades militant was killed and two other Palestinians were wounded in an explosion in Gaza City's eastern Shejaya neighborhood Thursday night, Palestinian security sources said. Meanwhile a senior Islamic Jihad leader and six other people were wounded in an Israeli helicopter strike in the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah, an official from the radical group said. The security sources identified the dead man as Shadi Abu Owenir, 30, of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, an armed offshoot of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's secular Fatah group. The cause of the Gaza blast was not immediately known. The incident brings to 4,248 the number of people killed since the start of the Palestinian uprising, or intifada, in September 2000, according to an AFP toll. That figure includes 3,250 Palestinians and 927 Israelis. *AFP*

Wife of Kim Jong-il reported dead

SEOUL—The woman believed to be the wife of North Korea's leader Kim Jong-il has died after a long battle with breast cancer, South Korean news reports said Friday. Chosun daily, quoting an unidentified North Korean source in Beijing, said Ko Yong-Hui, apparently succumbed to her long illness after returning home from Paris where she receive cancer treatment. The source said North Korea had a "very expensive coffin" delivered from Paris to Pyongyang aboard a special flight after Ko returned home. *AFP*

UK police arrest radical cleric Abu Hamza

LONDON—Radical Islamic cleric Abu Hamza al-Masri, already detained in London on an extradition request from the United States, was arrested Thursday under suspicion of committing or preparing terrorism acts within Britain. Hamza, 47, was arrested under Britain's main antiterrorist law, the Terrorism Act 2000, "under suspicion of being involved in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism," the Metropolitan Police said in a statement. They stressed the arrest was distinct from the US extradition proceedings and was part of a "separate, domestic investigation." As a result, extradition hearings would be suspended until Hamza is either charged or released from suspicion in this case, the public prosecutor's office said. *AFP*

Explosives traces found in crashed Russian plane

MOSCOW—The Federal Security Service said Friday that traces of explosives have been found in the wreckage of one of two airliners that crashed nearly simultaneously.

Agency spokesperson Nikolai Zakharov said on Russian television that "preliminary analysis indicates it was hexogen."

Zakharov stopped short of declaring the crash as due to terrorism, but said that efforts were underway to determine who could have committed a terrorist act.

The statement came several hours after a website known for militant Muslim published a claim of responsibility for the crashes of two Russian airliners, connecting the action to Russia's fight against separatists in Chechnya.

Zakharov said the explosive traces were found in the wreckage of a Tu-154 that was one of two planes that crashed Tuesday night, killing at least 89 people.

Although the planes disappeared from radar screens within minutes of each other after taking off from the same airport, Moscow's Domodedovo, Russian officials had been held back from declaring the crashes to be connected with terrorism, saying that other possibilities including bad fuel and human error were being investigated.

The crashes took place just five days before presidential elections were to be held in Chechnya, where rebels and Russian forces have been fighting for nearly five years. Officials had warned of concern that separatists could try to commit attacks ahead of the elections, which are to fill the post of the late Kremlin-backed Chechen president Akhmad Kadyrov, who was assassinated by a bomb in May.

The statement published on the militant Muslim website was signed "the Islambouli Brigades." A group with a similar name has claimed responsibility for at least one other attack, but the authenticity of Friday's statement could not immediately be confirmed.

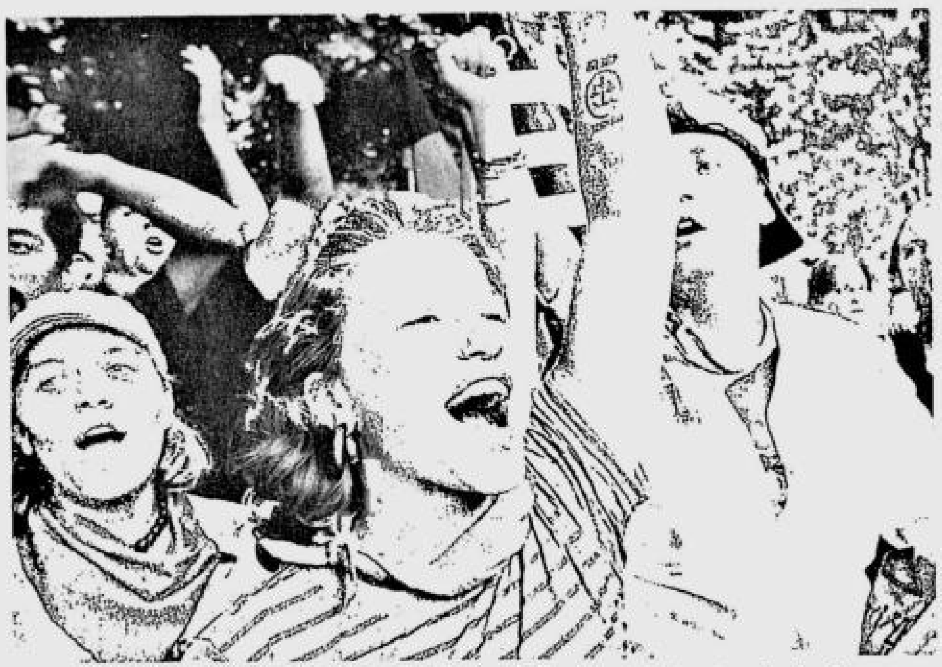
The Federal Security Service declined comment on the statement.

Russian officials have repeatedly contended that the rebels who have been fighting Russian forces in Chechnya for nearly five years receive help from foreign terrorist organizations, including al-Qaida.

Friday's claim did not refer to al-Qaida, but a group called "the Islambouli Brigades of al-Qaida" claimed responsibility for last month's attempt to assassinate Pakistan's prime minister-designate.

The statement did not give details on how the alleged attacks on the Russian planes occurred. The planes went down within minutes of each other after both had taken off from Moscow's Domodedovo airport.

"Our mujahedeen, with God's grace, succeeded in directing the first blow which will be followed by a series of other operations in a wave to extend support and victory to our Muslim brothers in Chechnya and other Muslim areas which suffer from Russian faithlessness," the statement said. *AP*



DEMONSTRATORS march through Central Park upon arriving in the city after having marched from Boston Aug. 26 in New York City. The anti-Bush protesters marched from the Democratic National Convention in Boston to the Republican National Convention. AFP

Number of impoverished, uninsured Americans grows

WASHINGTON—Critics took aim at US President George W. Bush's economic record after release of a Census Bureau report showing the ranks of the uninsured and the impoverished grew in 2003 for the third consecutive year while incomes stayed level.

The president's supporters came to his defense, noting that the numbers failed to reflect more recent economic gains, such as the addition of 1.5 million jobs over the past 12 months, or the full effect of the Bush-backed tax cuts.

But with jobs and health care key issues in this year's tight presidential race, Democratic challenger John Kerry said the data was evidence that the incumbent's economic policies had failed poor and middle-class Americans.

The reports released Thursday provide a snapshot of Americans' economic well-being in 2003, two full years after the end of the recession. In 2003, job growth was slow until the second half of the year, while wages overall were stagnant. Many of those who did get jobs were faced with accepting scaled-back benefits and pension plans.

"The good news is that this is what one would expect since we are still coming out of a recession," said Sheldon Danzinger, co-director of the National Poverty Center at the University of Michigan.

Still, the growing number of workers who didn't get wage increases last year likely helped boost the number of poor people in America, he added.

There were 35.8 million people living in poverty last year, or 12.5 percent of the population. That was 1.3 million more than in 2002.

Children made up more than half the increase—about 800,000. The child poverty rate rose from 16.7 percent in 2002 to 17.6 percent.

The government definition of poverty varies by the size of the household. For instance, the income threshold for a family of four was US$18,810. *AP*

Asian women seen having 'lost faith in marriage'

SINGAPORE—Asia's increasingly well-educated women have "lost faith in marriage" and more of them are staying single and childless to pursue their careers, an academic said Friday.

"The number of unmarried women in their 30s and 40s (in Asia) is skyrocketing," Gavin Jones, a professor at Singapore's Asia Research Institute, told a conference on marriage trends.

Twenty-five percent of ethnic Chinese women in Singapore and Malaysia were still single by the time they hit 30, he said. In Thailand, the figure was 20 percent, he said.

"Women have lost faith in marriage" mainly because they are better educated and more financially independent, he said, adding that some were also worried about rising divorce rates.

"They give priority to career and independence," said Jones.

Asian women were also more reluctant to bear and raise children these days, he added.

Many Asian countries—especially the more wealthy states—have seen steep declines in birth rates in recent years as more women are staying single, getting married and having their first child later, or not having children at all.

The long-term trend has triggered official concern about aging populations that could even shrink in the future.

Countries like Taiwan and Singapore are trying to reverse the birth slump by offering cash rewards and tax breaks to encourage couples to get hitched and have more babies. *AP*

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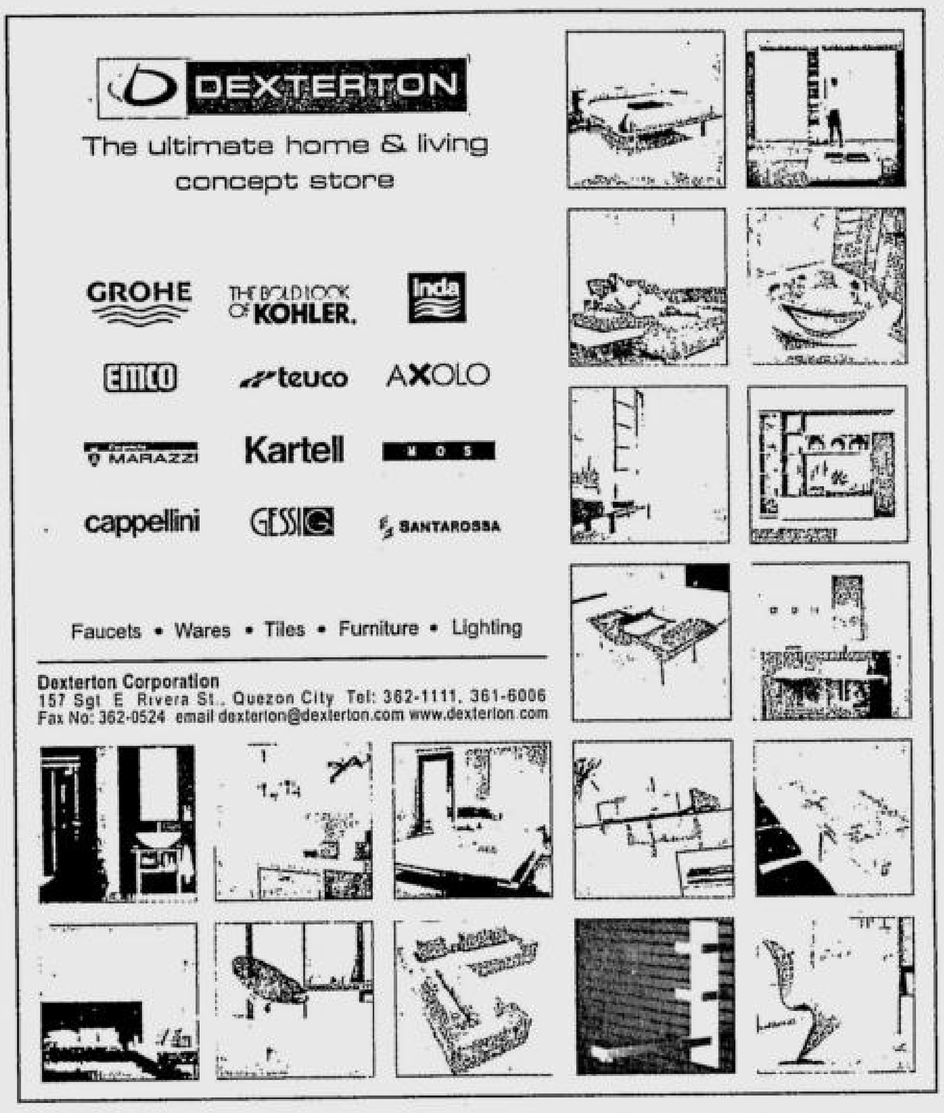

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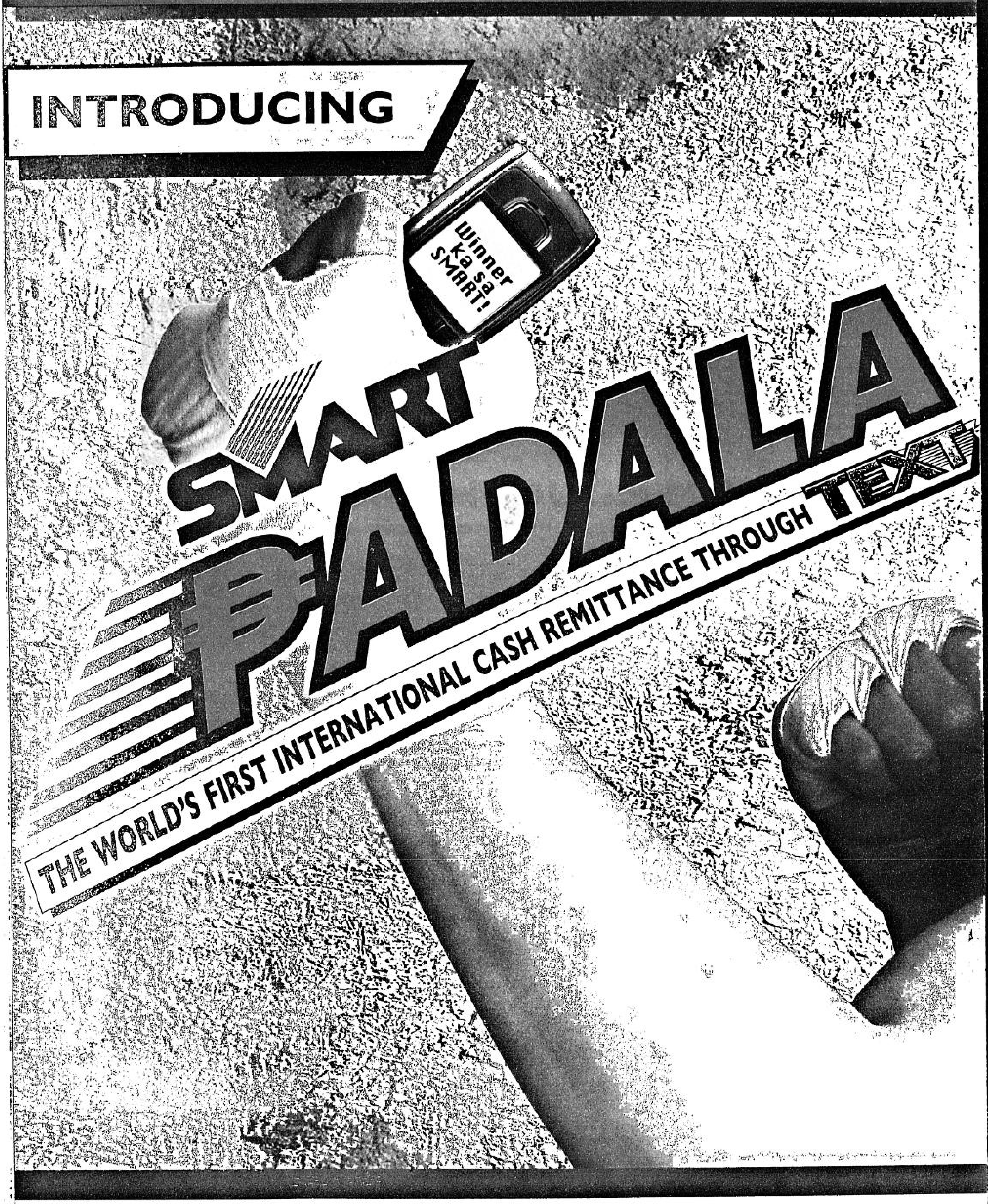
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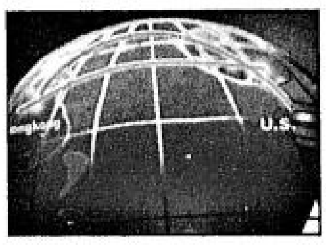

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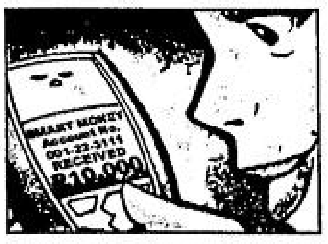
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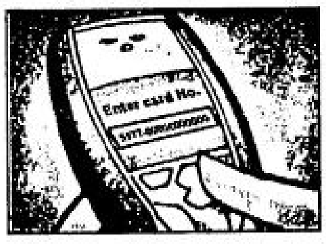
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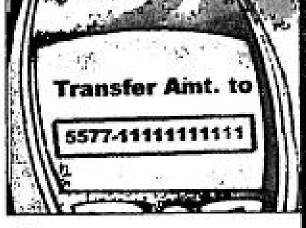
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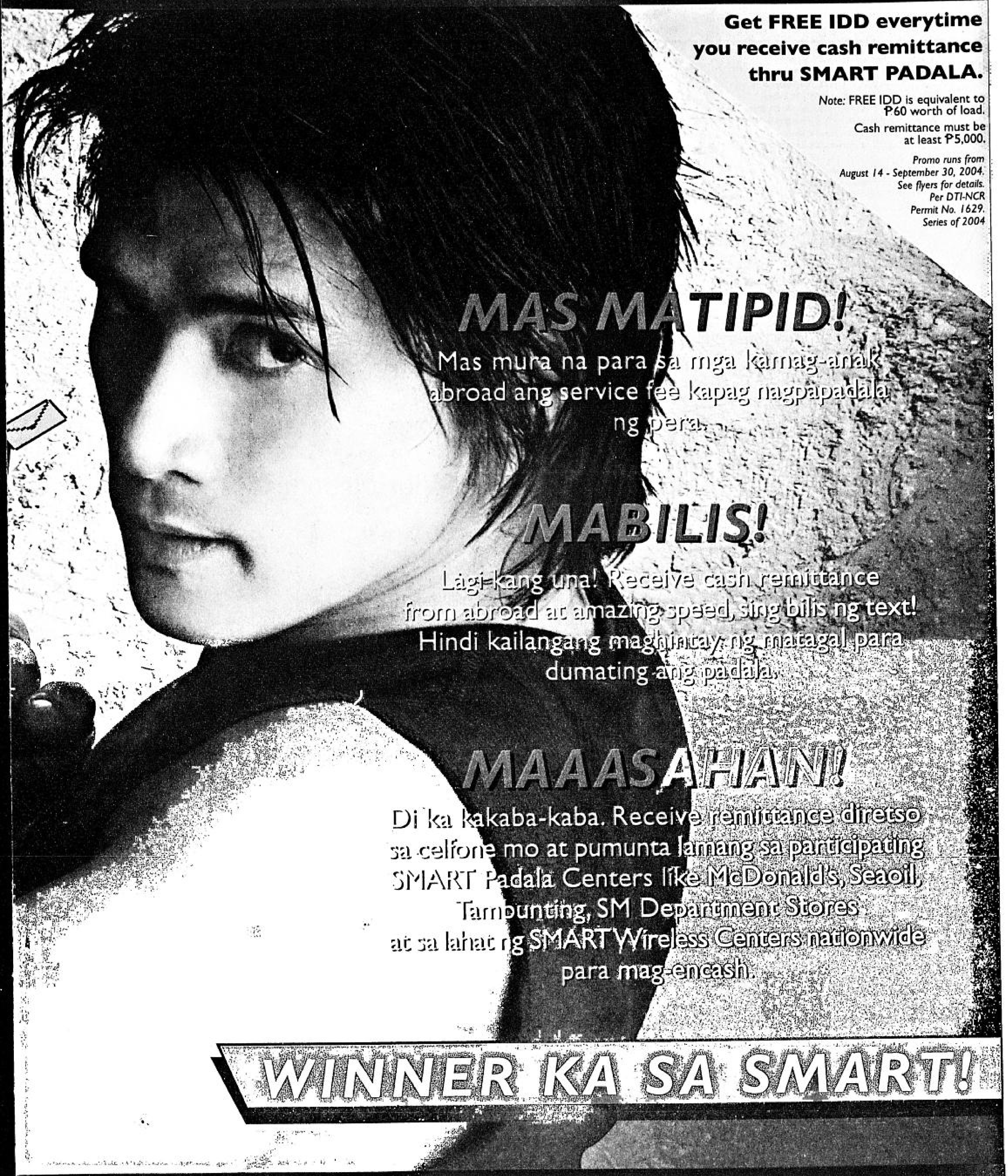

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OPINION

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Basics

EDITORIAL

BARBERSHOP and coffee shop talk has long revolved around the need for government to get back to basics. The detachment of government from the public is demonstrated by the inability of many officials to observe this basic and widespread yearning. How often have we heard the average person grumble, after some grand political pronouncement, that if only the little things could be made to work, the big things might eventually get better?

The optimism—fanciful or not—and the big plans of government have been made hollow by the experience of the average person. Nothing is more revealing than the anecdotal evidence of widespread petty criminality affecting the average shopper, commuter and worker. In particular, cell phone and wristwatch snatching, jeepney and bus holdups, pickpocketing and other petty crimes have added paranoia to the ever-increasing misery of our daily lives.

So when newly minted PNP Director General Edgardo Aglipay announced that he would concentrate on deploying cops to markets, malls, commuter centers and congested thoroughfares, people stood up to listen. We are prepared, at this point, to withhold the usual skepticism that an increased police presence will just increase opportunities for cops to mulct the people. Rather, we hope, as many citizens do, that we will see a corresponding drop in the occurrence of petty crimes.

If Aglipay's zeal to make a splash in the lives of the many brings results, it only goes to show what we have pointed out over and over again: things can get done, if only people concentrated on doing their jobs. If an increased police presence results not in trumpeted, manufactured government statistics, but in the best whispering campaign of all—the anecdotal accounts of happier, safer citizens—then we would have seen that a fresh start is possible.

And really, the possibilities are endless. If all it takes is an energetic PNP chief willing to make surprise dawn inspections and actually issue sensible deployment orders to his men and women, then we can reasonably expect the same in other agencies of government.

Who would not want to see less disorder and greater discipline in the many government offices which people deal with throughout the working week? All too often we have had to endure brief spurts of energy among officials, which only results in our briefly enjoying decent government service, only for things to get worse after a few months.

Fewer forms, more organized lines, less waiting, an end to people with connections cutting lines and people paying fixers to ensure forms are attended to—in how many thousands of government offices could things improve, at no cost to the government?

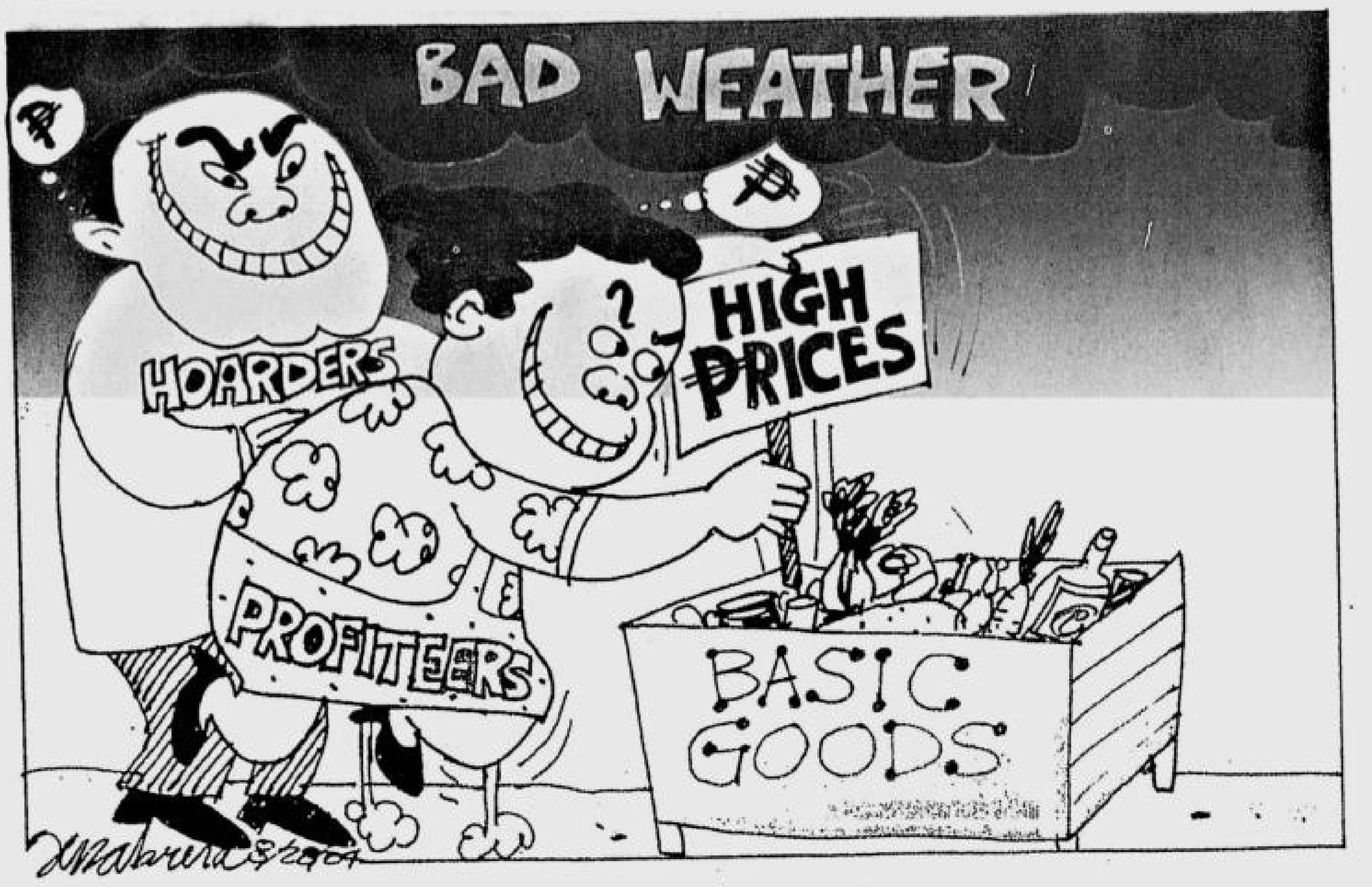
Things have to start somewhere. Let it start in our streets. At a time of national depression and anxiety, public places that are a little safer, a little more organized, can result in a tremendous amount of public relief and provide a big boost to our people's flagging morale.

However, even as Aglipay gets off to a good start, we have to look to the future. Presuming he does well, does his six-month stint leave him enough time to really make things better?

The ability of a talented leader to actually get things done in our personalistic culture cannot be underestimated. But just as things can quickly turn around, they can, as quickly, degenerate. It is perhaps, a good thing that at least his term has already been extended to six months, affording him the chance to get his plans going. After that, however, what? Back to the revolving door? Is this just all a *palabas* to allow Aglipay to retire in a blaze of glory?

Either he can do the job or he can't. If he can't, he shouldn't have been appointed. If he can, he deserves, and the country should expect, a full term as PNP chief. We cannot continue with half-baked, temporary, primarily politically motivated appointments to top positions. We have called the President to task for doing just that with her Cabinet; she shouldn't think she can get away with the same thing when it comes to peace and order.

Still, after the bungling and fumbling of the past, it is good to observe a new sense of dynamism in the police. Let's just hope it's not all for show. Going back to basics is serious business.



Honoring honesty

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THERE was a report last week that President Macapagal-Arroyo had given a P100,000 reward plus a citation for honesty to Nestor Sulpico, who had returned a bag of black pearls worth $70,000 to a passenger who had left it in his taxicab. The act was reported in the American press and reflected favorably on the Philippines, the country he had left 15 years ago to migrate to and later be naturalized in the United States.

Sulpico is now in the Philippines for a brief vacation to visit his family and has been repatriated under the law allowing dual citizenship to Filipinos who have been naturalized in other countries. I understand that his fare has also been paid by our government. He has become a minor celebrity here for having, in the words of the citation, "demonstrated to the world the Filipino virtue of honesty, for doing the right and honorable thing. You have made your family and country proud."

I am with the rest of our people in thanking Sulpico for giving our country this unexpected high mark. Heaven knows we need it, especially because of the unfair criticism we have been receiving for the pull-out of our military contingent in Iraq and the questionable conduct of some Filipinos in other lands like Mark Jimenez in the United States and that boy in Australia who was convicted of killing his parents and sister.

To be sure, the black pearls Sulpico returned without hesitation cost a fortune in American dollars; more so in our currency, which at the present rate would have amounted to almost P4,000,000. The chances also of his discovery if he had chosen to retain the lost treasure would have been negligible, given the number of undistinguishable taxicabs in New York and the forgetfulness of his careless passenger.

Sulpico's decision to return to the owner the forgotten fortune in his taxicab was not an ordinary act of honesty; it was a tremendous gesture of selfless uprightness. Had he chosen to do the wrong thing and kept the windfall for himself, and assuming he had the cleverness to conceal it from the prying eyes of the authorities, he would have vastly improved his whole life and brightened his suddenly enhanced future.

While the bonanza of P4 million would not amount to much with our present cost of living, it should nevertheless suffice for the kind of life the humble Sulpico has been accustomed to as an ordinary taxicab driver. With his found money—found, not stolen—he could have returned to his native Iloilo and there started a modest business—a *sari-sari* store perhaps to be run by a relative or a passenger jeepney he could himself operate.

Provided he lived a quiet life without the unnecessary braggadocio and impudence of the nouveau riche, Sulpico would have pulled it off in his obscure home as an ordinary resident and neighbor. A humble citizen back from the United States with a moderate amount of dollars he had frugally saved, he would have avoided in time the small attention he received as just another migrant returning to his roots.

Still, with all these speculations, and without diminishing my appreciation for Sulpico's integrity, I cannot help wondering why we have made such a fuss over the man as if he were an extraordinary person who has performed an incredible act that deserves the recognition of the President of the Philippines and the gratitude of the Filipino nation.

As a taxpayer, I do not begrudge him the cash benefits he received from our government in recognition of his uprightness which has brought honor to our country in the international community. Back of my mind, however, there is that lingering doubt, call it infinitesimal if you like, that in acknowledging his act with a presidential citation and financial donation, we have officially considered his rectitude as a unique and exceptional virtue found only in rare individuals in this country.

It is my firm conviction that Filipinos in general are honest and that this is one of the admirable virtues of our race. It is true that there are degenerates who have impaired that impression, but they constitute a small minority despite the growing number of thieves and swindlers and kidnappers among us. The rest of the 84 million Filipinos are trustworthy men and women—and children too—and Nestor Sulpico is only one of them.

I like to think that in honoring Sulpico for returning the bag of pearls to its rightful owner, we are only emphasizing this common virtue of the Filipino and not regarding it as an unusual accomplishment not ordinarily expected from the members of our race. I like to think that we are not receiving his conduct as an incredible if foolish act of integrity but only accepting it as what the ordinary honest Filipino, like you and me, would have done in similar circumstances.

We award medals to heroes, but that does not exclude the valor of the rest of the people. It just happens that those who receive medals had the chance to show their bravery, unlike most of us. Sulpico had a chance to prove his honesty and was individually rewarded for it, to his credit and, indirectly, ours. In bringing honor to himself, he has also symbolically honored the entire Filipino nation.

Sacrifice from everyone

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THE GOOD news is that movers and shakers in and out of government (legislators, businessmen) as well as plain concerned citizens are taking very seriously the pronouncement that we are in fiscal crisis—"crisis" here being used to describe a time of great danger, difficulty, or uncertainty when problems must be solved or important decisions must be made (Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary), or, more succinctly, a critical/turning point which could lead either to recovery or death. They are scrambling to get a handle on the problem and to look closely at the recommended measures to stave off economic collapse and set the economy on a steeper and more stable growth path.

Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the Senate committee on finance, visited the UP School of Economics to dialogue with the authors of "The Deepening Crisis: The Real Score on Deficits and the Public Debt." His familiarity with fiscal issues was impressive: he had analyzed the estimates made by the Development Budget Coordinating Committee (DBCC) on revenues and expenditures up to 2010, and had come up with an alternative set that he thought would be less constricting.

Opposition Sen. Sergio Osmeña III also asked for a meeting with some of the authors of the UP paper, with Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Ping Lacson and Jamby Madrigal in attendance. They, too, came prepared. All had copies of the UP paper, and Osmeña kept the authors on their toes, making them defend their assumptions and asking for working papers and background information. Specifically, he wanted to know more details about how the government's tax effort ratio went down from 17 percent in 1997 to a little over 12 percent in 2003. Johnny Enrile, who like Osmeña does his homework, apparently is already quietly putting together over a dozen measures that could help either raise revenues or reduce costs. Enrile is also deep in research about the status of reclaimed land which, when he finishes, may shake up the real estate industry which has taken over these lands (hint: the Constitution disallows the sale of public agricultural lands to corporations).

House ways and means committee chair (sharing with Jesli Lapuz) Herminio Teves and Deputy Speaker Noli Fuentebella met with fiscal expert Milwida "Nene" Guevara (an institution in her own right) to discuss alternative proposals with regard to the indexation of sin taxes. Congress' failure to allow automatic indexation when it switched from an ad valorem to a specific tax on liquor and tobacco has reduced revenues from this source by about one percent of GDP (roughly P43 billion at 2003 prices).

Concerned businessmen are holding a workshop at the Asian Institute of Management on Sept. 6, organized by the Federation of Philippine Industries with AIM president Roberto de Ocampo as convenor, to discuss concrete actions they can take to help in the effort to overcome the fiscal deficit and reverse the debt-to-GDP trajectory. Their particular concern is the rampant smuggling that not only results in lost revenues, but gives an unfair competitive edge to smugglers and reduces employment opportunities.

Priests like Fr. Lito Mangulabnan, S.J. of Ateneo Rockwell have asked parishioners to pray for clarity of vision in their political leaders and the political will to overcome the crisis. Janitors, clerks and other ordinary Filipinos have approached those they consider to be "in-the-know" to express their concerns and feelings of helplessness and anger about a situation not of their own making, while also accepting that we are all in this together.

The bad news is that it still hasn't sunk into the minds of some of our decision-makers that there is a time constraint. If the country is not only to reverse the deficit and debt trends, but also to undertake vital social spending that will lay the foundations for future growth, the magnitude that is required precludes the use of a single "magic bullet" as it were. It has been estimated that what is needed is an additional 3.5 percent of GDP in revenues raised or costs foregone—roughly P151 billion in 2003 prices. This is aside from cutting down the servicing of off-budget items and assumed liabilities like those of the National Power Corp., from 3 percent to 1.5 percent of GDP, which means a reduction of about P65 billion.

Given that magnitude, the UP paper shows why "growing out of the debt" or "simply cutting down on expenditures" or "improving tax administration" can either create more problems than they solve, or will not be able to raise the required amounts in time to stave off an economic collapse. Under these circumstances, additional taxes may be unavoidable, although they are placed last in the sequence of measures. The idea is that sacrifices have to be made by everyone, but the leaders must take the first hit.

Thus, it is dismaying to read reports that some legislators are asking that in exchange for reducing the congressional pork barrel, there should be no additional taxes, when it has been made clear that this is not an "either-or" situation but a "both-and" one. One certainly hopes that the President shows that she is serious about sacrificing by at least halving the presidential pork barrel. Cutting down on *merienda* during government meetings to show sacrifice is an insult to our intelligence.

Make no mistake about it. For us to get past this crisis, not only must the flesh be strong, the spirit has to be willing.

To Congress: Just do it

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

WITH PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and other officials soon flying to China for a state visit, focus will be on the economic strides made by our giant neighbor. In the ongoing Athens Olympics, China has riveted attention to its incredible drive to become an Olympic superpower, with its spectacular harvest of 52 medals—24 golds, 16 silvers and 12 bronzes—so far. With medal haul, it is running second only to the United States which has won 25 golds, 29 silvers and 22 bronzes. Thus, China has managed to outstrip traditional Olympic giants like Russia, Germany, Australia and Japan.

Last weekend was most significant, as a female weightlifter brought China its 100th gold medal since it started taking part in the Olympic Games. China had stayed away from the Games for 50 years, rejoining only in 1984 in Los Angeles.

* * *

A recent Herald Tribune feature on China highlighted its grim determination to challenge US dominance when Beijing hosts the Olympics in 2008. Surpassing the US may not be a pipe dream as Athens has shown. A second-place finish would demonstrate the steady progress it has made since the 1996 Atlanta Games where it finished fourth overall and the 2000 Sydney Games where it finished in third place.

China is now furiously preparing for the Beijing Olympics, spending billions of dollars for the construction of sports facilities and the training of athletes. It has expanded its national squad from 1,200 to 3,200. Many young, inexperienced athletes have been preparing for 2008 under an exclusive $200-million training fund. One undeniable asset of this giant nation is that its 1.3 billion people population provides an almost inexhaustible pool of athletes.

As President Arroyo's party leaves for Beijing, it's timely for us Filipinos, who are notorious for doing things half-heartedly, to learn some lessons from the Chinese on patriotism, persistence and the drive for excellence.

* * *

At the Naia tarmac, during the 21st anniversary of the martyrdom of Ninoy Aquino last Aug. 21, his brother, Makati Rep. Agapito Aquino, told some people he fully agreed with the stand of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, his presidential candidate in the last elections. Lacson has challenged all senators and representatives to give up their entire Priority Development Assistance Fund—and not just half of it—in order to assist the government during this fiscal crisis. In the national budget, each senator is allotted P200 million in public works projects he can identify under the PDAF, and each House member has P65 million worth of projects.

* * *

Lacson's call was in reaction to the statement by Senate President Franklin Drilon and eight other senators that they were willing to give up half of their PDAF to help the government. He said that if all 23 senators and 236 representatives gave up their entire pork barrel, it would reduce the budget deficit by at least P20 billion. He and Joker Arroyo are the only two senators who don't avail of their PDAF, and now Aquino says he'll also give it up.

Their stand is laudable and GMA has praised them for it. But I can see a lot of resistance from members of Congress, for as House appropriations chair Rep. Rolando Andaya put it, these are not just "pork barrel" funds—they pump-prime the countryside and build infrastructure. Besides, he doubted if foregoing it would make much difference on the budget deficit.

* * *

The problem is that if the entire pork barrel were removed and local government units were to have their Internal Revenue Allotments substantially reduced, as the national government is mulling, this could lead to complete stagnation in the countryside. But definitely, cutting Congress' pork barrel allocations by half would help a lot. Perhaps not in reducing the budget deficit substantially, but as a symbol for these times of crisis to show that the political class shares the financial burden with the people.

I join the nation in appealing to the members of Congress to pass that resolution cutting their allocations by half. Such a move would be a moral victory on their part and trigger a positive chain reaction—from the business community to pay the correct taxes; from the bureaucrats to do more serious cost-cutting; from the people to shoulder the needed taxes without complaining.

* * *

In the past decade, Erda Tech Foundation, founded by Fr. Pierre Tritz, has been giving free high school training to students from the poorest families in Metro Manila at the Erda Tech Center in Pandacan, Manila. In addition to the academic program, it trains the youth on various technical skills that they can put to gainful use right after high school. This year, as part of its mission to prepare needy Filipino youths for a gainful place in the global economy, Erda Tech has put up a Tesda-approved care-giver training program that opens on Sept. 6.

The course, which costs P18,000, payable in installment, will consist of 960 hours of training where students will learn how to give competent services to persons in all age groups—from infants and toddlers to the elderly and those with special needs. It will include not only such things as meal preparation and home management for patients and proper responses in emergency situations, but also Christian values such as sensitivity for the patient's feelings and respect for his dignity. The five-month training will be capped by a 240-hour practicum in selected affiliate care centers. Graduates will obtain a National Certificate II rating after passing the Tesda competency assessment.

For particulars, call 564-1860 or 564-2608 and ask for Eric Lerios, M.D., program head, or Luzviminda Moncog, R.N., program assistant, or e-mail erdatechcare@yahoo.com.

Again—is dialogue possible?

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maramba

RINA Jimenez-David's column head "Is dialogue still possible?" (PDI, 8/14/04) on Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger's "Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Collaboration of Men and Women" sent ripples of recognition through my brain.

Recently received in the e-mail was a "Catholic Common Ground Lecture" on precisely the "issue of dialogue within the Church." John Allen Jr., lecturer, is a full-time Vaticanista, a "journalist who…covers the Holy See on a daily basis."

Briefly, the following points emerge: that a Common Ground Project is very important considering differing points of view within the Church; that the project didn't work; that for every country cited (including the Philippines) there was "no space for dialogue"; that we remain polarized, "more strangers to one another, today"; that Allen recommends a "spirituality of dialogue." His most pessimistic observation was a hint of "undeclared ruptures." His most optimistic was that "the strongest impulse" is the "assertion of what it means to be Christian."

Because the writer-lecturer is looking at the Church at large and examining the communion between the universal Church and the local churches, his findings may seem distant to us. So, let's go micro to our local church and see if the macro and micro do reflect each other. How goes the communion within our local Church?

Imagine bringing together representatives of the old-time *Catolico cerrados*, the renewed Christians, the Opus Dei, those open to "New Age" ideas, folk Catholics, urban poor Catholics, El Shaddai, critical Catholics with minds of their own. How would such a dialogue for "common ground" fare? Would they be cordially "speaking separate languages" or be at each other's throats?

How would a dialogue on any controversial topic at any given time fare? These days, grabbing the news are: the letter of Cardinal Ratzinger, "Da Vinci's Code" and the perennial population issue.

The cardinal's letter has drawn flak from Sr. John Mananzan, Rina David, Ceres Doyo, Rep. Rissa H. Baraquel et al. Their feminist stand is well known. Here now comes an amusing "qualities of authentic womanhood" described as "nurturing, caring, gracious, refined and compassionate." Beware of "soccer and basketball" as these are "highly aggressive, and may cause injuries that may harm the reproductive system of the girls…and make the girls uncaring, hardened, gruff, brusque and loud…." Take "sports which develop feminine graces, such as dancing, gymnastics, aerobics, table tennis and swimming." How can feminists sit primly with the Paref school officials?

With regard to "The Da Vinci Code" and similar intellectual teasers and challenges, here's an invitation to discussion. If a docile, innocent (ignorant?) person asks a priest if he can read the book, the priest will tell him, "Don't read it; its wrong!" If a fairly intelligent person asks the same question, the priest will say, "You might get confused." If a very sharp person approaches the priest, the latter will say, "It's all right; but keep it to yourself."

With regard to the ever-burning population issue, I am grateful to Fr. Ruben Tanseco, S.J., for spelling out what we have suspected all along. "There are two moral positions… as far as responsible parenthood is concerned. The official papal position, and the non-official, responsible dissenting position of quite a number of moral theologians, bishops, clerics and laity…. the official position, though normative, is not an infallible doctrine. It is not a dogma. The Second Vatican Council teaches us that the final arbiter of moral decision is one's informed conscience." Incidentally, there are other matters admitting of two positions.

Dialogue and openness are now imperative. The pervasive Church culture of silence, submission and cover-up is itself up for examination. In the Congress of the Clergy last July 5-9, there may not have been a news black-out but there was certainly a brown-out. What do we know about what happened? Zilch, except that the priests had a very "intense" recollection. The rest was "perhaps" this or that, which led a deprived media to "invent."

For another example, some people will chide me for bringing out "divisions" within the Church at all. That's for under the rug not for under the glaring sun. Why don't I instead stand pat on "one-holy-Catholic" Church? Things are no longer as simple as that.

Yet there may be reason to think that most Catholics can be led-by-the nose as "before," teeming as our country is with the poor and the benighted. The Church seems to be catering to that assumption as she continues to cultivate the "cultish" to feed the spirit of the folk, but that's yet another assumption. There are pockets of a "thinking Church," questioning, examining, ventilating (who by the way, love the Church no less).

If there's some kind of a brain-drain both physical and in spirit, going on among laity, priests and nuns; if some persons are pointed out as more Christian than those who are *simba ng simba*; if snide remarks get around like, "the Church is not pro-life, but pro-miserable-life"; 'tis folly to cover each other's eyes and ears. Its time to sit up, dialogue and ask why. There must be room for common ground.

So, Rina, under the circumstances, what are the prospects for dialogue?

Asuncion David Maramba is a retired professor, book editor and occasional journalist. Comments to marda@info.com.ph; fax 8210659.

A funny story

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THIS is not funny in the sense of being comic but funny as far as it shows the quirks in human behavior that make the study of human beings in action an interesting pastime. Many of these stories would certainly make entertaining movies as well. John Foreman in his book "The Philippine Islands," has many of them and would-be storytellers and scriptwriters are encouraged to read them for inspiration.

Some time early in the 18th century, a ship captained by an Armenian arrived in Manila from India bearing a young man who called himself Monsignor Charles Thomas Maillard de Tournon. He claimed to be the visitor-general, bishop of Savoy, patriarch of Antioch, apostolic nuncio and legate *ad latere* of the pope. As you can see, people have a thing about titles (this is as true now as it was then, otherwise why would they get a kick out of being addressed as "Your Honor" or "Excellency" and so on?). Anyway, Cardinal Tournon (at some point he must have been named so because he's listed as such in the Index of Blair and Robertson) claimed he was on his way to China to visit the missions together with eight priests and four Italian families and took a side trip to see how we were getting along. (The ramifications of the China story are in themselves fascinating because it seems the Jesuits were at first allowed to use Chinese rituals in Catholic rites but this was later disallowed by Rome as being idolatrous. Tournon had been sent to look into the matter.)

It was the practice in those days to place guards on foreign vessels, perhaps for security reasons, by the custodian of the Fort of Cavite. The act infuriated the stranger who insisted on a verbal message being taken to Governor-General Domingo Zabalburu announcing his arrival. Whatever powers of intimidation the legate had were enough to send the custodian scurrying to Manila to convey the message to the governor-general, who forthwith instructed the custodian to accompany the stranger.

Tournon was greeted with cannon salutes from the plaza although he still hadn't shown any of his credentials. In Manila, he took up residence in the house of the *maestre de campo*, Bernardo de Endaya, where the governor went to visit him, although there was a question about his papal credentials since no one had as yet seen them.

A commissioner was sent to request royal confirmation of his powers and his papal credentials. Again the visitor got on his high horse and waxed indignant that his position was being doubted and promptly threw the commissioner out. Incredibly, neither the archbishop of Manila nor the governor-general stood up to him. As a matter of fact, the archbishop was ordered to set aside his archiepiscopal cross while Cardinal Tournon used his own in religious ceremonies and left it in the cathedral when he departed. Part of the official robes and insignia of the archbishop were taken from him as well, and with his consent at that. The chief authorities of the country paid Tournon their respects while he, on the other hand, never returned their gesture. It turned out that he was really Poe Clement XI's legate and not an impostor, just a pain.

However, he was nice to the *maestre de campo*, who was under ecclesiastical house arrest at the time even if the former did spend $20,000 getting on the good side of the man. Cardinal Tournon got the archbishop and the governor to pardon the man and asked that the pardon be proclaimed publicly. He also managed to have the Armenian captain made a knight of the Golden Spur in a ceremony at the *maestre's* house in ceremonies to which the governor-general wasn't even invited.

Finally, Tournon left for China where his high-handedness had little effect on the Chinese who after all weren't Catholic and couldn't be intimidated with threats. Not only did his imperious ways get the missionaries into trouble, but he was also thrown in jail by the Chinese courts. The emperor, just as imperious if not more, then booted him out of the country.

Tournon then made his way to Macao where he spent the time quarreling with the missionaries and finally died in 1710 in the Inquisition prison, having met his match when he tangled with the Jesuits.

Zabalburu got it in the neck when the king found out what had happened in Manila. The governor-general was declared disqualified for life to serve after having proved his incompetence while the senior magistrates were removed from office. Each priest who had not taken cognizance of *regium exequatur* had to pay a fine of $1,000. The archbishop was degraded and sent to Guadalajara but continued to intrigue and connive with Tournon, sending him $1,000 from Mexico and promising him a fixed sum of $1,000 per annum for whatever support he could give him.

Finally, the king in exasperation issued an edict to the effect that any legate who arrived in his domains without royal confirmation of his credentials was to be treated civilly but afforded no special treatment. Every year the edict was to be read in full on certain days before all the civil and ecclesiastical officials in case they forgot and another papal Legate got them into another pickle.

As you can see, the struggle between Church and State has a long and noble history with various footnotes in between.

* * *

Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.com

Powerless

YOUNG BLOOD

Herdy L. Yumul

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I FEEL like a prostitute, used and not taken seriously, unimportant and powerless, paid for some passing need. This is how a few years in the academe has made me feel.

I teach philosophy and sociology in a school where nursing is the flagship course. Over a thousand nursing students have attended my classes, and they have come in various shapes and forms: young, not so young, married, single, well-off, poor. They have one common goal: to leave this country as soon as possible.

Ask them why they took the course, and they are quick to tell you success stories of their relatives in other countries, and the dim tomorrow that awaits us in our own. These students are well-driven, and well-motivated. Charity begins at home. And so are apathy, resignation and materialism. Any influence that I wield as an educator is very easily negated by the gospel of a world that is painfully real.

When I decided to move to teaching from a better paying job, I was in high spirits. I yearned to live and grow in the academe, where knowledge thrives, where the ideal is pursued, and where young people are taught how not to commit the same mistakes our fathers did. Today, I am afraid, I am reduced to being an accomplice to one sugarcoated mistake.

My students listen to my lectures, but seem too occupied to really get the message. Our nurses are leaving by the hour. Operating rooms are filled with novice nurses because the skilled ones have left. Women and children are dying in depressed communities where health care is poorly administered. Because nursing students pass through my classroom, blood is also in my hands. How can we build a country deserted by the best of her sons and daughters? I cannot take this sitting down, but I have also grown too weary to resist. I am just another powerless academic. For this, I grieve.

And I grieve even more when I meet students who were forced and brainwashed by their elders into taking up nursing. Many of them have come to me in tears. They tell me of their agony, the pain of killing a dream at its infancy. Such is the epidemic that plagues the homes of the Filipino middle-class today, a scandal that negates what the fathers of this nation lived and died for, a plague that would not spare my own home.

I gained a better insight into my students' situation when a year ago, my nephew J-Jay informed us that he wanted to be a mathematician. It was a surprise. In this country where young people dream of becoming doctors, lawyers, actors and presidents, we had someone who dreamt of being a mathematician.

Members of the family were proud of him, especially when he graduated on top of his class, and aced all aptitude tests in math. But many were worried about his future. "What will he become, a teacher?" they asked, apparently concerned about the prospect of J-Jay dying of starvation. Consequently, our relatives convinced him to take another course that is close to numbers, but farther from the sting of poverty. J-Jay chose accountancy. That was a good compromise—or so we thought.

But then Ate Hedy, my older sister, went home for a three-month vacation from New Zealand, where she works as a nurse. She prodded J-Jay to study nursing. "If you take nursing, you can leave this country, and bring your family there, too. You can buy the things you want," she told him.

At first, J-Jay was hesitant, "*Sayang naman po ang galing ko sa* math, Tita," he said matter of factly. But Ate Hedy's "success" was one thing J-Jay could not ignore completely.

I told Ate Hedy we should not teach J-Jay wrong values. Her reply pierced my heart deeply: "I am just trying to enlighten him. *Wala nang pag-asa ang Pilipinas! Wala nang mangyayari sa atin dito!*"

And Ate Hedy was not content with J-Jay taking up nursing. She also urged me to take my chances abroad, promising help.

The offer was sweet, but it left a bitter aftertaste. It's grounded on the assumption that I was not happy, or might not continue to be happy, if I stayed in this land. Apparently, even in my loving family, I am a powerless academic.

I did not want to ruin Ate Hedy's vacation and her *balikbayan* bliss, so I spared her a lengthy lecture about nationalism, responsible citizenship and the price we have to pay for them. If she were in one of my classes, I would have bored her by my pleading to imagine our nation in a more kindly light. I am not sure though if one and a half hours of talking about big concepts would change the way Ate Hedy looks at things.

I was even beginning to be unsure if I made sense to my students. No, I was not telling them not to take up nursing. I was asking them to serve our countrymen, and not to give up on this nation. I was asking them to give back to this land, a land that they feel has not given them enough.

Rizal must be rolling violently in his grave. The youth is a source of hope no more. I'd rather draw strength from people who are decades wiser, those who never cease to believe in their power to make a difference. Prof. Ester dela Cruz, my mentor in the University of the Philippines, is one of them. The lines in her face reveal her age, but the glow in her eyes shows a burning love of country that is as intense as the love of a 2-year-old child for her mother.

Then there is cyberphilosopher Ruel Pepa, a man of letters whom I am fortunate to work with. His living is modest, but his universe is wide and meaningful.

My mom is another big inspiration; she allowed me to pursue this life. I hope she is proud of me. If only because of her, I cannot sell out.

E. San Juan, one of the more magnanimous social thinkers our land has nurtured, told me recently: "When you begin to feel powerless, Herdy, try to talk to people who have the same fervor as you do. Profound social change is brought about not by individuals, but by large, organized movements."

And so I write this piece in the hope that like-minded citizens will come together to keep the flame of hope burning. Powerless academics unite! Let's come together and share our own victories and failures. Let's tell what keeps us going, ever refusing to concede defeat.

What keeps me going? There are some saving graces. One came in the form of an e-mail from Kadz, a former student, who wrote to say she had transferred to San Beda to major in philosophy. She said that if by making that difficult decision, she could be half as happy as I seemed to be now, then it would be worth it. It's not true that I was taken for granted, she assured me.

Meanwhile, J-Jay went on to take accountancy, and my Ate Hedy lovingly understands. I am now able to sleep more soundly these days as I think of Kadz, J-Jay and other brave souls who took the path less taken. I pray that Bathala may shower upon them her most abundant blessings.

But I pray harder for Jeus, Danica, Archie, Bertrand, Byron, Mininio and many others held hostage by either need or greed. I mourn for the death of the philosophers, mathematicians, artists and dreamers in them, even as I celebrate the demise of the prostitute me.

Herdy L. Yumul, 25, teaches at Trinity College, Quezon City while doing graduate studies in sociology at the University of the Philippines, Diliman.

Infallible views of the privileged

IMMEDIATELY after the Court of Appeals ruled in favor of consumers against the Manila Electric Co., Malacañang and corporate bigwigs came out complaining of judicial intervention in the economic affairs of the state. Yet a few months ago, when the Supreme Court dismissed the plunder cases against President Macapagal-Arroyo, the same people were praising the judiciary for practicing restraint, prudence and wisdom.

They described the results of the rigged elections as a reflection of the people's will, yet when the will of the people is used to deflect an increase in the cost of commodities, it is called populism. Retrenching government workers is an austerity measure, while reducing pork barrel is denying the poor of basic services. Giving tax breaks to big business in times of economic crisis is good for the economy, while increasing the pay of workers will spell doom for the country.

Texters were branded "text terrorists" for pressuring Spéaker Jose de Venecia to oppose the proposed tax on text, but during Edsa II, they were hailed as young heroes.

Street protest actions are part of destabilization efforts to undermine democracy, while violently suppressing these rallies is necessary to defend the "strong republic."

The news reinforces your bias against the poor because they are projected as an unthinking, hysterical and irrational mob unwilling to sacrifice for the greater good. In contrast, the rich are portrayed as sober, clean and educated individuals who speak only of intelligent ideas unfettered by emotion.

Truth is compromised to defend the status quo, which favors the numerically few but very powerful elite in business and government. What is most disturbing is that every day, the vast majority, especially the young, is bombarded with half-truths and outright lies packaged as objective news.

—RAYMOND PALATINO,
vice president,
Anak ng Bayan Youth Party
32-B Visayas Ave., Galas, QC

LETTERS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Aglipay needs more time to reform PNP

I AM not thoroughly convinced that President Macapagal-Arroyo made, or will make, the right choices for her new Cabinet. I can still discern vestiges of politics in some of her appointments.

However, in the case of Philippine National Police Director General Edgardo Aglipay she could not have chosen a better man. But now that she has appointed him, there is the matter of how long she will allow him to serve after his 56th birthday, just weeks from now. The President has already announced that she will extend Aglipay's tenure for six more months. This is very welcome indeed, but is six months sufficient?

She has the right man for the job. I have no doubt that all the other contenders for the post have the integrity, leadership and loyalty that a career officer develops as he rises through the ranks. Nonetheless, I believe Aglipay showed all of us that he has high levels of management skills and abilities. He displayed these attributes in his skillful, competent and fair handling of protesters from both sides during Edsa II. He continues to show exemplary results in his campaign to dismantle the drug menace that has caused so many problems, particularly in crowded urban areas. We need people who show results. Aglipay has proven that he can show results time and again.

The right man needs sufficient time to show results. Given the myriad problems besetting the PNP, very little can be accomplished in six months. We need somebody who will restore the PNP's credibility among Filipinos. Surely, there is no quick fix to this. Aglipay needs to focus on long-term solutions to problems that have gotten worse over the decades. He needs to reach into the hearts and minds of our men in uniform and bring out the best in them. That will not happen overnight.

Aglipay announced very admirable and well thought-out programs during the turnover ceremonies. The core of these programs requires a change in behavior and philosophy from all the members of the PNP. But all those who want to escape Aglipay's reforms need only make themselves scarce over the next six months. The extension of his tenure for a short period severely limits what Aglipay can accomplish.

I can understand why the President needs to be sensitive to the succession issues in the PNP and in all branches of the military. But I also think that the rehabilitation of the PNP as an institution, given the leadership of Aglipay, should take precedence.

—DR. FERNANDO Y. ROXAS,
associate professor,
Asian Institute of Management,
Makati City

Population control could be an easy task if…

I READ with interest the article of Conrado de Quiros entitled "Families." (PDI, 8/09/04)

I fully agree with him when he said that family planning is a question of culture and motivation. The success or failure of a healthy reproductive program lies in the way this program is being fed to the public. For as long as the couples do not feel responsible to plan their families by ignoring their resources and allowing themselves to satisfy their desires in the name of "procreation," the population problem will not be resolved.

In the same manner, if the government lacks the political will to make a stand on the population issue and allows itself to be at the mercy of the religious sector, then, no matter how many contraceptives it buys, its health program will be a failure.

If only the government has the character of Sen. Juan Flavier to motivate people to seriously consider family planning options, population control will be an easy task.

—ROLANDO B. FALLER,
230 M.H. del Pilar St.,
Caloocan City

Dao tree's scientific name

THANK you for printing the letter from University of the Philippines Los Baños chancellor Wilfredo P. David in the Letters section of the INQUIRER. (PDI, 8/12/04) May we, however, point out that the scientific name of the Dao tree is *Dracontomelon dao*, not *Draconian dao*.

In the interest of accuracy, which is very important to the scientific community of which the University of the Philippines Los Baños is a part, we request that this letter be published in the INQUIRER.

—JOSEPHINE M. BO,
director, Office of Public Relations,
University of the Philippines
Los Baños College, Laguna

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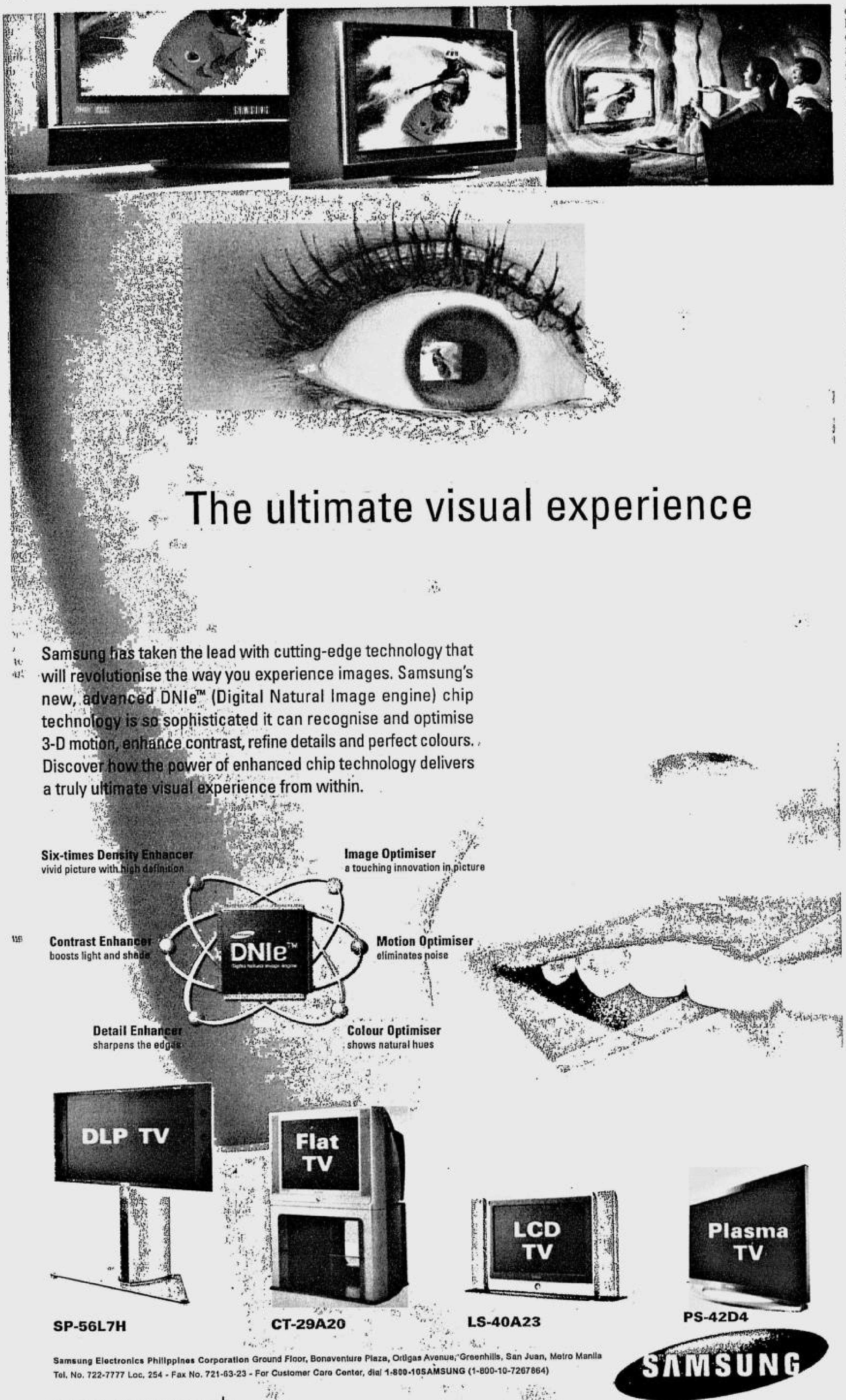
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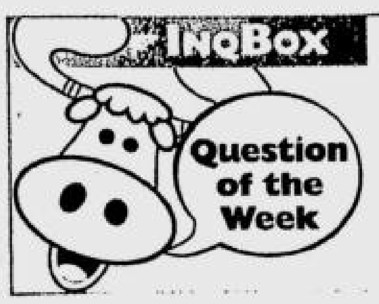

What can be done for us to win an Olympic gold?

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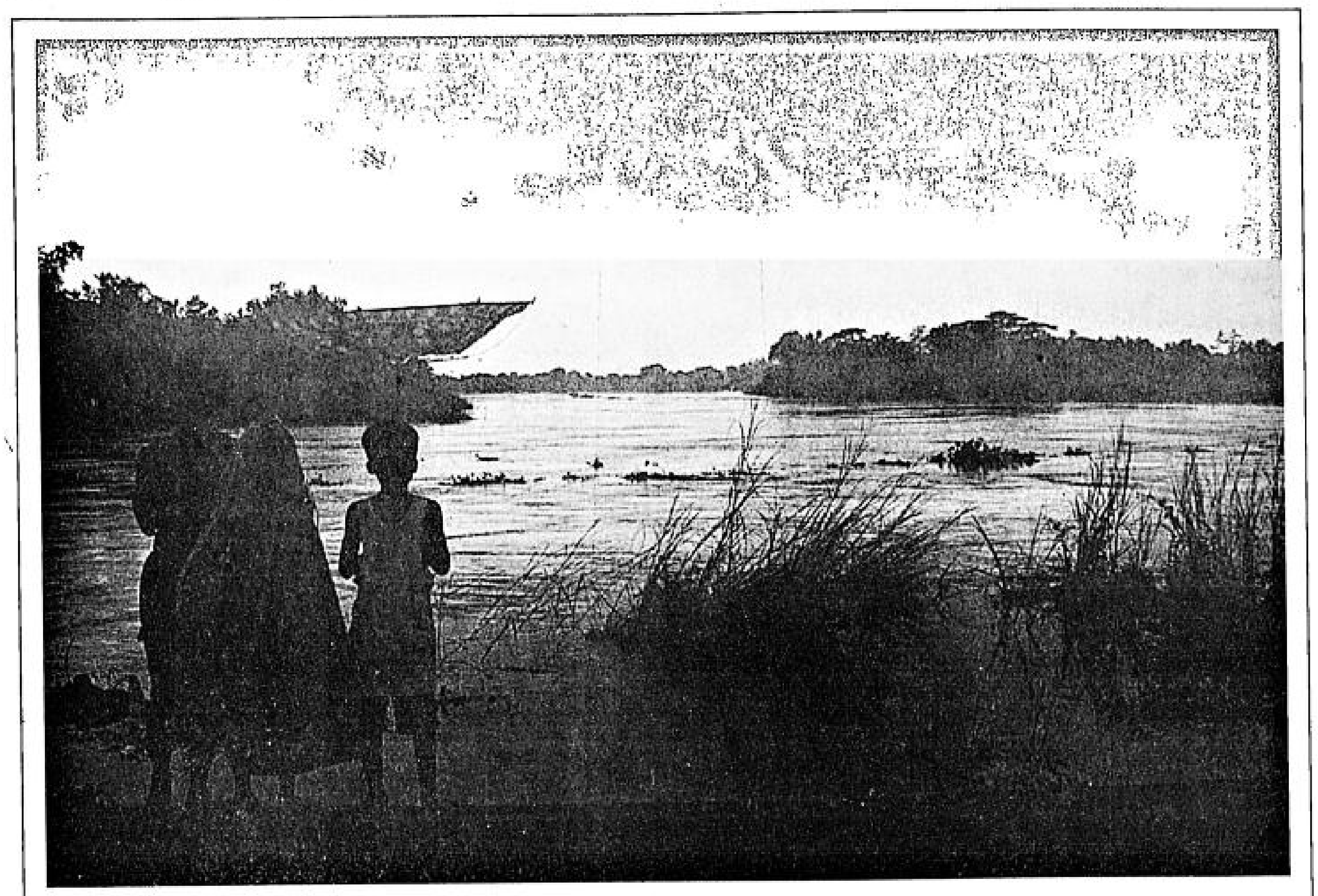

JOAN BONDOC/PDI PHOTO

SWAMPED
Residents of Mandasig village in Candaba, Pampanga watch as a creek in their community overflows at the height of strong rains. The dark clouds and continuing rains keep them on alert.

Davao cops say rights leader not victim of anti-crime vigilantes

DAVAO CITY—Police yesterday said they were pursuing at least four angles in Tuesday's murder of human rights leader Rashid Manahan.

The announcement came two days after Mayor Rodrigo Duterte gave police at least a week to solve Manahan's killing.

Supt. Conrado Laza, city police director, said Manahan's connection with several progressive organizations, a possible personal grudge, love triangle and even his reported betrayal of underground groups he worked with, were being looked into.

He said the police were not inclined to believe that Manahan's death was perpetrated by the same people running after suspected felons.

The group has since been known as the Davao Death Squad (DDS).

"As far as we are concerned it was a plain murder case," Laza said.

He said the police were "in the process of collating all evidence" and were scouting for witnesses.

Laza said among those being sought was a female doctor, whom Duterte said "could help us out in the investigation."

Laza said he was confident that in seven days, police could already come out with a comprehensive report on Manahan's death.

Manahan of the Philippine Human Rights Information Center (PhilRights), also served as executive director of the Community Resource Development Center, an NGO, and coordinator of Mamamayang Tutol sa Bitay (MTB)-Davao chapter, a group funded by the European Union (EU).

He was also an active campaigner against the series of summary executions in the city.

On the day of his death, Manahan was hosting a forum on the executions.

The outrage over Manahan's murder continues.

"Killing seems to be a daily and casual activity . . . here in Davao City and the neighboring provinces," the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines said in a statement. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Militant women's group leader slain

STA. ROSA CITY, Laguna—An unidentified gunman shot dead a militant community leader officer of women's group Gabriela in this province while she waited for a ride in front of her house in Barangay Dila yesterday.

Senior Supt. Eduardo Sanque, city police chief, said Merlita Carvajal, 51, was waiting for a tricycle after she had crossed the street adjacent to her house when two gunmen approached the victim and shot her in different parts of the body.

He said the victim was on her cellular phone talking with somebody when she was shot.

Sanque quoted witnesses as saying only one of the two gunmen opened fire and the victim was on her way to Balibago Complex when the witnesses heard four gunshots.

Police, who earlier identified the victim as a member of the labor group Kilusang Mayo Uno in Laguna, said the gunmen walked casually away from the crime scene "as if nothing happened."

The suspects boarded a motorcycle and fled to Cabuyao town, Sanque said.

Residents rushed Carvajal to the Sta. Rosa Polyclinic where she died.

Sanque said they have yet to establish the motive for the shooting but said her work and ties w ith militant organizations may have something to do with it.

"We still have to talk with her relatives and friends. But she could have gained some enemies because of her work," he said.

Sanque said they have already released a sketch of the gunmen based on witnesses' accounts.

He said they would also invite the person who was talking with Carvajal on her mobile phone before she was killed.

Leftist groups in the province condemned the killing.

Luz Baculo, secretary general of the Pagkakaisa ng mga Manggagawa sa Timog Katagalugan, said Carvajal's helping the settlers of a disputed land in Barangay Pulong Sta. Cruz may have led to her killing.

She said Carvajal helped residents of a land being claimed by businessman Wilson Tieng of Solar Films.

"We are sure that callous businessmen and local politicians had something to do with this senseless killing. We just hope the police would do their best to arrest the killers and the mastermind," Baculo said.

She said Carvajal had received several death threats a few weeks before she was killed. "But she apparently ignored these threats," she said. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Hospitals vow to make docs, nurses stay

BACOLOD CITY—The heads of 11 province-run hospitals vowed that doctors will continue to man tertiary and secondary hospitals in Negros Occidental despite the exodus of medical workers for jobs abroad.

They also agreed to consolidate their manpower resources to ensure the delivery of hospital services in the event of a shortage of nurses and doctors.

The commitment was contained in a position paper signed on Tuesday by the hospital chiefs in the province's six towns and five cities, following their meeting with Gov. Joseph Marañon.

The doctors went to the governor's office on Tuesday to draw up suggestions what could be done to stop government health workers from leaving.

A copy of the position paper would be given to the adhoc committee of the provincial board, which was formed to look into the concerns of government doctors and nurses.

In the position paper, the hospital chiefs pushed for the full implementation of the provision in the Magna Carta for Health Workers, which guarantees a hazard pay for all hospital-based workers equivalent to 25 percent of their basic monthly salary. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Batangas journalist's slay suspect falls

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—The head of the special police unit formed to investigate the recent spate of killings of journalists in the country said members of the intelligence unit of the Philippine National Police have arrested the suspected killer of Batangas newsman Arnel Manalo at an undisclosed place in Parañaque City.

Senior Supt. Nicasio Radovan, head of the Task Force Newsmen, said suspect Michael Garcia was apprehended "somewhere in Parañaque on (Thursday) morning" by task force operatives based in Camp Crame.

Although he declined to give full details of the police operation, Radovan told the INQUIRER that Garcia "was positively identified based on the descriptions" of lone eyewitness Apollo Manalo, the victim's younger brother.

Apollo, who was with the murdered journalist when the shooting happened along the national road in Bauan, Batangas on Aug. 5, had earlier identified Garcia after the police presented a gallery of wanted persons from the records of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Batangas City.

He said members of the task force brought the suspect to the Batangas police headquarters in Camp Miguel Malvar in Batangas City to present him to Apollo for identification.

Police had described Garcia as a member of a gun-for-hire group in Nueva Ecija.

Radovan said the suspect is currently facing a murder case filed before the Cabanatuan City court.

Residents of Bauan town said Garcia was a nephew and bodyguard of Barangay Captain Ed Mendoza, whom Manalo interviewed a few days before he was killed.

Police said Mendoza had gone into hiding after being implicated in the killing of a bodyguard of an influential businessman and political rival in Bauan two years ago.

The village chief was also accused of raping a minor.

Sources close to Manalo earlier told the INQUIRER that only Mendoza could have ordered the killing after he suspected the victim of informing the police of his whereabouts.

The spate of killings has pushed the alarm button among journalists.

In Dumaguete City, a female journalist sounded an alarm over the death threat she received on Monday, a first for this city this year amid rising incidents of killings and threats faced by journalists nationwide.

The object of the threat was Maritoni Salvoro, 28, a news and public affairs reporter of radio station dyWC, an affiliate of the Radio Mindanao Network (RMN).

Salvoro said an unidentified person suddenly got inside the compound of their residence in Barangay Sacsac, Bacong, a town some 6 km south of here, last Monday evening and fired his gun at the ground thrice, left an envelope containing a letter and a live bullet of a .45 cal. pistol and hurriedly fled on board a motorcycle.

Salvoro quoted the letter as saying, "You have made reports that hurt our group. *Magpaalam ka na* (you say your goodbyes). Upon receipt of this letter consider yourself dead."

Salvoro believed the threat was triggered either by her report on the dismissal from the service of three policemen, assigned in the Philippine National Police (PNP) Provincial Mobile Group and in the PNP provincial office, who were suspected of being involved in the illegal drug trade, or her exposé on the massive illegal extraction of sand and gravel in Bacong, which indicated that local officials appeared to have done nothing against the illegal activity. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

ROUNDUP

NPA rebs disarm cop

MATI, Davao Oriental—Communist rebels disarmed a disco-loving policeman in Barangay San Roque in nearby San Isidro town on Thursday evening, two days after armed men identifying themselves as New People's Army (NPA) rebels also disarmed security guards of an agricultural plantation in Maco, Compostela Valley. In the San Isidro incident, police said PO1 Ruel Carrido of the 1101st provincial police mobile group was attending a village dance party when a group of NPA rebels arrived. The rebels reportedly forced the sound operator to stop the music, then ordered disco-goers to lie down before confiscating Carrido's service firearm, a .45 cal. pistol. In the Maco incident, Compostela Valley police director Jaime Morente said at least seven rebels swooped down on an outpost inside the MD Rio Vesta Agri Venture Plantation in Barangay Pangi and forced the three guards to hand over their firearms. Morente said the rebels fled with their loot, a shotgun, two revolvers, a grenade and communications equipment. *Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Sex dens raided

ANGELES CITY—Acting on complaints of religious and non-government organizations, police here raided suspected sex dens in Barangay Sta. Teresita over the weekend and rescued 37 sex workers aged 19 to 30. None of the operators of the dens was arrested. The sex workers, who came mostly from Masbate, Leyte and Cavite, were believed to be recruited by sex slavery syndicates, police said. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Spurned cop kills 2

NAGUILIAN, Isabela—A policeman on Saturday shot and killed two persons after he was allegedly spurned by a girl in Barangay Minallo here, police said. PO1 Victor Gulfaya was immediately detained after killing Evangeline Mauricio, 37, and Richard Dagdag, 17, both of nearby Barangay Aguinaldo in Naguilian. The victims were on board an Elf van on their way home from Cauayan City when they chanced upon the policeman, who was drunk and who fired his service gun at them without any apparent reason. Senior Supt. Napoleon Estilles, Isabela police director, said double homicide charges were being prepared against Gulfaya. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Missing Koreans found

CITY OF CALAPAN—The five reported missing Koreans—Kim Young Shin, Kim Yoon Young, Choi Jung Yoon, Kim Young Rok and Park Sun Min—have been found and already turned over to the custody of the Korean Embassy as confirmed by the owner of Club Mabuhay Resort, a Korean resort in Puerto Galera, according to the Puerto Galera Police Office. A report dated Aug. 16 by Supt. Alexander Aceveda, officer in charge of the Oriental Mindoro police office, said the Koreans arrived in Puerto Galera last Aug. 8. They left White Beach for Boracay last Aug. 9. They stayed in Boracay from Aug. 9 to 15, according to Kim Hong Ki of the Korean Embassy. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Customs files more raps vs extorting cops

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The Bureau of Customs here would file more charges against the former regional chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Northern Mindanao and four others over fresh charges of extortion.

Customs Director Lourdes Mangaoang said another importer complained that Supt. Raul Boac and at least four other CIDG agents had asked her to pay three times so that the goods she brought in could be released from their custody.

Dahlia Kim, owner of KDI Enterprises, which sells surplus personal stuffs and kitchen wares, said the worst incident happened to her in April 2002.

In an affidavit provided to Mangaoang, Kim said despite the clearance issued by the BOC on her cargo, the CIDG confiscated the goods. She said Boac asked her to pay P60,000 but she managed to lower the amount to P40,000.

She said when the cargo was inspected, its packaging was already tampered with and some goods were already missing.

"When I asked for (the missing goods), SPO2 Ceasar Beltran simply told me that Boac liked (the goods)," she said in the statement.

Beltran is one of Boac's co-respondent in an earlier suit filed by the BOC in connection with the CIDG's alleged illegal raid on licensed importers.

The others were Insp. Ramon Gulong, SPO2 Caesar Beltran, SPO2 Rogelio Basadre and SPO1 Benjamin Alfonso.

"For as long as I am holding office here I will never allow any harassment against investors". . . and what I am doing now is a wake-up call to the victims to come out and file complaints," Mangaoang said.

Boac denied any wrongdoing saying the raids and seizures his men conducted were legal. *Grace Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

VICTORY
Election Commissioners Resurreccion Borra and Virgilio Garcillano raise the hands of newly proclaimed board members Morsaleon Binnor Tominoray (left) and Shirali Sampaco Sani of Lanao del Sur.

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Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Edralyn L. Benedicto**

Tourism department comes to Cebu

By Bernadette A. Parco
Cebu City

AFTER President Macapagal-Arroyo declared the "Malacañang sa Sugbo" open for business last month, another major transfer is expected next month, when the central office of the Department of Tourism moves to Cebu from Manila.

Why Cebu? The President answered this last month, saying her administration was focusing on promoting "beach tourism" and the Cebu-Bohol link as a priority tourist hub.

"I have chosen Cebu because of the easy access to the beach. When the tourists land in Mactan, it will only take a 20-minute drive to get to the beach," she told reporters in a recent visit.

Patria Aurora Roa, tourism regional director, said the Cebu-Bohol link was identified as a priority tourism hub in a DOT-commissioned report done by McKenzie and Co., which took around 10 months to prepare. The international consulting firm based in the United States also identified focus areas in order to invigorate the country's tourism industry: marketing, planning, development and promotions.

Primary hub

"The Cebu-Bohol link is the primary hub of sea and air (travel for tourists). We have beautiful beaches and 80 percent of shipping lines are based here," Roa said, echoing the report. The other anchor destinations are Metro Manila and its environs, Palawan, Boracay and the Subic-Clark corridor.

With the country in the midst of a fiscal crisis, the cost of DOT transfer—expected to reach more than P200 million—is a bitter pill to swallow.

But outgoing Tourism Secretary Robert Pagdanganan was optimistic; he saw it as the right time to decentralize and decongest Metro Manila.

"Moving to Cebu is a signal that we want a more balanced and equitable development in our country. We can't do this if we rely on Manila alone," he said.

Pagdanganan said the department would be spending P100 million for the construction of the building and another P100 million for the transfer of its employees.

He said the President had already given instructions to the Philippine Tourism Authority to fund the construction of the building.

Earlier, Ms Arroyo had expressed her wish that the architectural design of the building would be reminiscent of the famous Banaue rice terraces. If this were followed, the design would be a far cry from the stately Roman architectural design of the DOT office at the Agrifina Circle in Rizal Park, Manila, with its stone columns and balustrades.

The new office will sit on an 8,000-sq.-m. lot with about 25,000 sq. m. in total floor area on a reclaimed property at Kawit Point on the South Reclamation Project of the city government.

Ms Arroyo and Pagdanganan, accompanied by local officials, inspected the site in July and found it satisfactory. But plans for the design of the building are on hold while the department awaits the result of the soil-sampling test done on the site.

"Cebu City Mayor (Tomas) Tommy Osmeña has assured me that the analysis of the soil of the building's foundation will be available soon and this will be the basis of the structural design of the new building," Pagdanganan said.

Personnel transfer

The next order of business is the relocation of personnel.

Aside from the DOT, the Philippine Tourism Authority and the government-run Philippine Convention and Visitors Corp. will be based in Cebu City.

According to Undersecretary Armand Areza, the transfer will affect around 2,400 employees, but only half of the number will have to pack their bags and move to Cebu.

He said a housing allowance of P5,000 a month might be given to around 1,200 employees who will move. "That will amount to P6.5 million a month, but we are also open to other options," he said.

His words did not fall on deaf ears. Already, several Cebu-based civil society groups have volunteered to help ease the transfer woes of both the department and its personnel.

Robert Go, president of the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the private sector was assisting the department in addressing the needs of employees.

"We in the private sector are helping the employees, together with Mayor Osmeña, in finding ways to make their move more comfortable by recommending schools, shopping centers, and anything else that they would be needing," he said.

Go said a core group tasked with helping the DOT with the transfer had been organized by the mayor and was headed by Councilor Jun Pe. The group is composed of taxi operators, tourist guides, hotel and restaurant associations, and other tourism stakeholders.

"The mayor is also looking for families who are willing to act as foster families to the employees," he said.

Osmeña met with about 1,000 DOT employees at the central office in Manila last month and discussed with them their concerns and uncertainly of what kind of life awaits them and their families when they relocate.

Pagdanganan said the personnel were given the option to avail themselves of an early retirement package or to transfer to another government agency.

"We have coordinated with other departments like the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (and) the Department of Agriculture… Those (from the DENR or the DA) who are doing clerical jobs and are from Cebu will have the option to swap jobs with people from DOT," he said.

He described the transition period as "moving on smoothly."

"We are confident that we will see some concrete developments within the year," Pagdanganan said.

Temporary office

Since the DOT has been directed to begin operating in Cebu next month, the department will be temporarily using the ground floor of the Malacañang sa Sugbo, the erstwhile Cebu Customs Building, as office.

Roa said they were just waiting for the completion of renovation work at the Malacañang sa Sugbo, which is being supervised by Col. Reynaldo Bangit, commander of the 53rd Engineering Brigade.

The first senior official to hold office in Cebu will not, however, be the tourism secretary but the department's transfer liaison officer, Phineas Alburo, the tourism attaché in Singapore, who is familiar with Cebu since he was a former tourism director in Central Visayas.

The tourism secretary will continue holding office in Manila, until the DOT building is completed sometime during the last quarter of 2005.

But since the incoming secretary is a Cebuano, it would not be difficult to get him to address the department's issue here.

The President has appointed Cebu Rep. Joseph Ace Durano (fifth district) to replace Pagdanganan, who will become chair and president of the Philippine International Trading Corp.

Durano gave assurance that he would continue the DOT programs already in place despite the change in department heads. "It is not outperforming your predecessor," he said.

He said he would give priority to improving infrastructure, peace and order, and the accessibility of tourist spots.

Durano's appointment, together with those of other Cabinet members assigned to various government posts, must pass the close scrutiny of the Commission on Appointments before they can formally assume office.

But the "long haul" does not stop here. Ms Arroyo has other agencies lined up for transfer.

Pagdanganan disclosed that the central offices of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of National Defense would be transferred to Mindanao, the Department of Agrarian Reform to Iloilo City, and the Department of Transportation and Communications to Clark.

But with the President calling on government agencies to save and legislators to cut their Countrywide Development Fund (CDF) in half, the "*lipat-bahay*" trucks are not expected to line up at the front steps of these agencies in the coming months.

Fil-Am school for orphans now a premier college in Capiz

By Renelie Urate and Gerry Pagharion
Roxas City

IT started as an orphanage. Now, after a century, the Filamer Christian College (FCC), the oldest private school in Capiz, marks its 100 years of existence with the "grandest celebration" ever.

The fanfare started as early as Jan. 5 this year with a torch parade around the city's main streets. A nonstop weeklong celebration sponsored by the different departments started Aug. 23 and culminates today with a Grand Alumni Homecoming at the "spruced up" 2.5-hectare campus on Roxas Avenue here.

An imposing three-story "Centennial Building" now proudly stands in front of the college's main entrance. Costing about P22 million and completed last May, the structure undoubtedly symbolizes the school's giant leap for progress.

From a "Home School" for the poor and orphaned children established by the American missionaries in August 1904, FCC has grown to become one of the leading school institutions in Capiz today serving a total of 5,423 students in elementary, secondary and tertiary levels.

The name Filamer is a combination of the word Filipino and American as an acknowledgment of the role that the latter played in the establishment of the school.

FILAMER CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

THE "CENTENNIAL building" of Filmer Christian College symbolizes the school's giant leap to progress. GERRY PAGHARION

The late Capiz Rep. Gerardo "Dinggoy" Roxas called it the "UP of Capiz" because of its "liberal policies that enabled students to exercise their "academic freedom."

Humble beginnings

It all started in 1900 when American Baptist missionaries in Jaro, Iloilo, led by Mrs. Peter H. J. Lerrigo began their missionary work in Capiz.

Aside from extending medical help to the poor and the needy, Lerrigo's group also attended to the spiritual needs of Capiz residents.

Soon, a group of Capiceño believers built a small chapel near the river, which is about 50 meters from the school's present site known as "Capiz Hill" because of its elevated terrain.

In December 1903, Baptist missionary Celia Sainz arrived in Capiz to begin training "Bible Women," which was coined to refer to women capable of propagating the words of the Bible.

Iloilo-based priest, Rev. Joseph Robbins, spent the whole of January 1904 in Capiz assisting Dr. Lerrigo. Later that year, the Robbins family moved to Capiz and organized a Sunday School and other activities for children under the auspices of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society.

Then sometime in August of 1904, the Robbins couple received a note from the chief of the now defunct Capiz Constabulary requesting them to take charge of orphaned children and those whose parents were placed behind bars for crimes and other unlawful acts.

One of them was named Regina. She and her two brothers were taken by the Robbins into their home. This was on top of the seven children that the couple had been feeding daily. Thus, the deep concern of the missionaries for the poor and neglected children of Capiz grew that it finally gave birth to a Home School, then renamed Filamer Christian Institute and, later, to Filamer Christian College.

Mission, vision

The Centennial theme, "Proclaiming God's Faithfulness 100 Years and Beyond," gives emphasis to the college's quest to carry out its mission and vision regardless of the odds, declares Dr. Expedito A. Señeres, FCC president.

"Our theme truly reflects the jubilant spirit in everybody's heart. What Filamer is today is because of God's unfailing love and abiding presence."

Dr. Salvio E. Llanera, FCC vice president and chair of the centennial celebration, says "this is once in a lifetime and blissful event that we are truly proud of."

He notes that the school humbly began as an orphanage and grew amazingly touching the lives of many people.

Meanwhile, plans are afoot to make FCC a university. This "dream" of the college, which is shared by many of its alumni, was affirmed recently when, during their retreat on May 14-16 this year in Boracay, the FCC's department heads and members of the Board of Trustees came up with a 5- to-10-year plan for the conversion of the college into a university.

Tanong ng Bayan
INQ INQ TV
ABC Tuwing Huwebes, 8pm
I-text ang inyong "fearless view" sa 2910. Pipiliin namin ang pinakamagaling na sagot. Ang premyo linggo-linggo: isang 21" color TV set!
I-type: INQTV <ang inyong sagot>, <buong pangalan>, <siyudad o probinsiya>, tapos ipadala sa 2910. Cut-off time: WEDNESDAY, 6 PM. Winner will be identified during the InqTV program: Thursday, 8pm, on ABC.
text 2910 SUN, Smart, Globe!
Bawasan ang pork barrel, o tuluyan nang tanggalin?
Congrats to Ed Dames, ng Pasig City! Nanalo ka ng 21" Sony color TV!
"no long term planning. late and inadequate support. politicos as sportsleaders. too much emphasis onbasktball. no respect for our athlets!"

Boy cries for help: I want to live

By Jolene R. Bulambot
Cebu City

UNLIKE most children his age, June Maurin Arceo should have been in Grade 6 now until he met an accident early this year that has brought a dramatic change in his life.

June, at 11, already knew what he wanted: to become a teacher. This goal, however, has been set aside to focus on a bigger battle: fighting for his life against cancer.

June enrolled at Talamban Elementary School in June, only to quit days before the classes started because the cancer has started to weaken his resistance, making him very vulnerable and fragile.

"I really wanted to finish my studies so I could become a teacher and help my family, I really want to live and I hope God would grant my wish," Arceo said.

Too weak to walk and now wheelchair-bound, June still managed a warm smile when visited by this writer in his home at Sitio Kalubihan, Talamban, Cebu City.

June has only one wish for his birthday on Sept. 12, that is, for him to be able to survive the surgery to remove a mass in his abdomen.

His father Joseph, 31, said June's condition started eight months ago, in the middle of January, when he fell and hurt his abdomen while playing basketball. It was supposed to be just an ordinary accident most playful kids encountered, but it turned out to be very unfortunate for the young Arceo.

June started feeling pain in his abdomen. In March, a doctor found a tumor developing in his abdomen and it had already grown to about 20 centimeters.

In June, the boy's parents got the shock of their life when their eldest child was diagnosed to have a soft tissue sarcoma cancer already in the critical Stage 4.

Off guard

"It was so shocking; we were caught off guard. We never expected it. It couldn't be because our boy is so young. He still has so many dreams for himself and for the family to fulfill," the teary-eyed father said.

Dr. Lynda Mae Lipatan, Arceo's attending physician, explained that the fall did not cause the cancer but aggravated his condition. She said the cancerous mass was actually growing inside the abdomen and the fall jarred the pelvic area and sped up the growth of the mass.

Over the last three months, June has been in and out of the hospital. He had undergone bone marrow aspiration, bone marrow biopsy and several tests and chemotherapy.

He is the eldest of three children. His younger siblings are aged 10 and 4.

His father works as a technician at Norkis Trading Corp., earning P6,000 a month, while his mother Maurine works as a promo girl.

JUNE Maurin Arceo, 11, asks for help to get treatment to stop cancer cells from plaguing his now frail body. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

June's chemotherapy and other medical expenses rose to more than P100,000, draining the family's financial resources. "It is so hard for us to sustain his medical needs but we have no choice. We love him so much and we want him to survive and he is keeping up with the fight," his father said.

Still, hopes are high for the Arceos.

Lipatan said June was responding well to chemotherapy. After completing the 12 cycles, the patient will undergo a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) diagnostic test, a procedure to assess regression of the tumor.

"If the MRI result is okay, we could then schedule him for a surgery early next month to remove the mass that has practically covered almost the abdomen. After the surgery, he would be subjected to another phase of chemotherapy until he recovers," Lipatan said.

The physician said the cost of surgery might reach P200,000.

High chance

June's cancer is chemotherapy-sensitive and he has higher chances of survival if he gets the right treatment, Lipatan said.

According to recent studies, children with sarcoma have higher chances of survival compared to adults, she said. Sarcoma is a type of cancer arising in the body's supporting tissues and it is not known what causes it, she said.

In June's case, other relatives had suffered from this type of cancer.

Now frail and bald, Arceo is appealing to those with kind hearts to give him a chance to live. Those who want to help may reach Joseph Arceo through his mobile phone, 0916-754-1172.

Prepare for '2 years of pain'

From page A1

gional director for Eastern Visayas of the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF-8), an attached agency of the finance department, said local government units often look to their IRA to pay off their debts or loans. She said this would have to stop.

Generous package

Afable, who is the Cabinet officer for regional development (CORD), said regional line agency offices are even now starting to feel the pinch as they have been receiving only enough money to pay for salaries and nothing for operations.

He asked the local officials to study a "very generous" retirement package that the government would be offering this year. He said the Office of the President has already abolished 34 agencies.

Afable said the fiscal crisis has been "glossed over but the truth is, (it) is already with us (and) we have to face (it)."

Startling announcement

Following the President's startling declaration last week that the country was in the midst of a fiscal crisis, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said the government was taking legal steps that would allow it to retain part of the local governments' IRA to help it take better control of the budget and reverse the deficit.

The IRA allotted to local governments, which take 40 centavos of every P1 in taxes collected by the government, averages around 21 percent of national government spending.

White paper

In their white paper warning of economic collapse unless the government reins in the deficit and the national debt, the UP School of Economics professors recommended reducing IRA releases to local governments from 40 percent to 30 percent.

Boncodin said the government, in consultation with congressional and local government leaders, must declare a state of "unmanageable public sector deficit" before moving to reduce the IRA releases.

She said that based on next year's IRA of P151 billion, the national government could get a maximum of P37.75 billion although she said a more realistic amount would be P20 billion.

LGUs alarmed

The specter of the budget cuts has alarmed regional officials in the Cordillera Administrative Region, composed of the provinces of Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga and Mt. Province.

Juan Ngalob, Cordillera director of the National Economic and Development Authority, said various high-impact projects scheduled for the region in 2003 were realigned to Mindanao in spite of the fact that at least six provinces of the Cordillera rank among the poorest in the country.

He asked the Cordillera governors to negotiate a way out of their predicament by lobbying for more infrastructure funds this year to cushion the impact of the unmanageable deficit.

Hard times

Mt. Province Gov. Maximo Dalog said his chief concern was the on-again-off-again construction of the Halsema Highway, a major link of the vegetable farms of Benguet, Mt. Province and Ifugao provinces to Baguio City.

Finance experts said Cordillera towns, whose economies rely solely on their IRA, would be particularly hard hit.

Jose Mallare, a senior BLGF executive, said the Cordillera provinces and towns posted a positive 2004 revenue collection of P3 billion, but 90 percent of these earnings were IRA shares. The BLGF noted that the Cordillera region plugged its deficit with its IRA because its expenditures reached P2.1 billion last year.

Judging by their business tax targets, local governments relied solely on the allotments and had few businesses to run their economies, Mallare said.

Based on the records of the BLGF-8, close to 30 local government units secured financial loans to different financial institutions as of this year, Atuel said.

And in most cases, the LGUs use their IRA shares in paying off their debts, she said.

New schemes

But with the national government plan to either withhold or reduce the IRA share, Atuel said it was about time that local leaders devise some other means of improving their finances.

She said that among these schemes was to intensify tax collection on real property.

"Their local tax ordinances must be updated in accordance with the times. Some business permits in certain towns, for example, are pegged at P5 or P10, which is a joke," Atuel said.

She appealed to local elected officials to exercise strong political will by imposing new and reasonable tax ordinances and stop politicking.

She said some local officials do not want to introduce new taxes because they fear losing their positions in the next election.

Worse, some of these elected officials are tax delinquents themselves, she said.

200 congressmen OK pork cut–JDV

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But in the proposed budget for 2005, Ms Arroyo asked Congress to slash the PDAF by 40 percent.

Elsewhere, Senate President Franklin Drilon told reporters he would give up his PDAF for the next budget year "in response to the clamor and in order that we can lead by example and address the fiscal crisis."

He said that his action was "voluntary" and that "it was up to the others" to decide what they would do.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who gave up his PDAF as early as 2002, said he was welcoming Drilon to "the pork-barrel-less club."

"At least he's setting the example. That should be a cue for the other senators to follow," Lacson said in a phone interview.

Lacson expressed elation that his stand against pork barrel was somehow "snowballing" with the entry of the Senate leader.

He joked that he should be president of the club; Drilon, the president pro tempore; and Senators Ramon Revilla Jr. and Serge Osmeña III, provisionary members.

Both Revilla and Osmeña have said they would forego their pork barrel as long as all senators would do so.

Revilla filed a resolution yesterday "urging all the members of the Senate to forego 100 percent" of their PDAF for 2005.

Sen. Joker Arroyo may be counted a member of the "club" because he has never used his pork barrel in his three-year term as a senator and when he was a representative of Makati.

Reacting to the President's move to cut the lawmakers' pork barrel, Senator Arroyo said everyone should have a "hair cut."

"It's unfair. She would ask everybody for a hair cut and then she'll have long hair," he told reporters.

Reluctance

And when it comes to giving up her own billion-peso pork barrel, the President appears reluctant to set the example.

Ms Arroyo, who has vowed leadership by example, would rather follow whatever cut the legislators would agree to.

Interviewed by RMN for its 22nd anniversary, Ms Arroyo ruled out a cut on her intelligence funds, said to amount to at least P500 million a year.

"Intelligence funds are not pork barrel. Those are already being used for intelligence [gathering]," she said when asked about suggestions that she also give up the funds as well as the President's Social Fund (PSF), which also amounts to P500 million.

The suggestion came from administration Sen. Richard Gordon and opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

"But the [PSF] that they are referring to, I have already reduced it in the past years. In fact, in the last three years of my administration, the total was only about P1 million," Ms Arroyo said.

"And I am willing to further reduce it, if necessary. I will match the cut that the others would have on their pork barrel, IRA (internal revenue allotment) and development fund," she said. "But to begin with, I have to point out that the budget of the Office of the President (OP) had been reduced."

In the proposed 2005 national budget, Ms Arroyo has proposed a P213-million cutback on the OP budget.

Powerful GMA

But Senator Arroyo warned that the PDAF cuts and the proposal to cut the IRA of local government units would make a powerful President out of the incumbent.

"Once you remove the PDAF and IRA, that diminishes the power of legislators and local government units. Conversely this strengthens the President because she has the money," he said.

Pimentel made the same warning, saying that giving all the funds to the President would make her "the omnipotent source of all development funds of the country."

"What is her moral ascendancy to assume that she can be trusted with all the money?" he told reporters.

Senator Arroyo told the INQUIRER that the President was "part of the problem."

He said the President's borrowing binge for three years was more than the combined borrowings of Presidents Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada for eight years, or from 1992 to 2000.

He also said the President's response to the fiscal crisis should not be limited to serving only coffee during meetings, "where the servings could amount to only a few thousand pesos."

He urged the President to follow the lead of President Corazon Aquino in 1986.

"If she does that, everybody will follow," he said. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

Cannibalism eats up town's tourist image

From page A1

"do not want this attention. This destroyed the image of Narra in the Philippines.

"They are telling me, don't talk about this because our guests, especially the foreigners, are afraid to come here," she said.

"Mayor Lucena Demaala has been trying to explain to the public that this is an isolated case and there are no other cases of violence in the town."

But the sensational nature of the case and continuing mystery over the circumstances have fueled speculation. There are questions over whether a cult was implicated or if the group had claimed other victims.

Wedding dance

According to the police report, on July 16, during a wedding dance for the daughter of farm laborer Eladio Baule, 47, guest Benjie Ganay, 25, accidentally touched the bottom of the bride-to-be.

This allegedly enraged her father. Baule, his son Gerald, 21 and friends Sabtuary Peque, 36 and Jhunnie Buyot took Ganay on a motorized tricycle into the woods where they stabbed him to death.

The four then allegedly set fire to Ganay's body and ate parts of his body, the police report said.

Bacuel believes they may have served portions of Ganay's body to some of those who were still drinking at the dance but she questions whether they actually served human flesh at the wedding itself.

Most of the victim's bones were dumped in a creek in the belief that rain would wash them away but Jhunnie Buyot, a cousin of the victim, who was conscience-stricken over the incident, went to police and confessed to the crime.

After a two-day search through the forest, police found the sooty bones along with remains of the clothing and tufts of hair.

The Baule father and son and Peque now sit in a spacious cell, complete with a makeshift ping-pong table, resisting attempts by photographers to take pictures of their faces.

Their lawyer had warned them not to speak to the press but when asked, Eladio Baule said: "I don't know anything of what they are saying. Our embarrassment is too great."

Media reports

Narra tourism officer Reynaldo de la Rosa complained that the incident occurred in the hinterlands of the town and that most residents would not even have learned of the crime had it not been for media reporting.

"The first media reports that came out weren't too detailed. It made it look like it was part of our culture," he said.

Bacuel said it was the first such case in the history of the town. Violent crime is rare in Narra and the last killing occurred last year during a drunken brawl, she remarked.

Why the Baules and their friends went to such extreme lengths to avenge a minor slight is still unclear although police say they were drunk at the time.

Their neighbors remember the suspects as normal people and find it hard to believe they could have committed a gruesome crime.

AFP

RP debt service . . .

From page A1

only on the national debt, which stood at P3.4 trillion last year.

"There is, however, payments on the debt principal amounting to P344.2 billion which is due next year, bringing to P645.9 billion the total and real debt service," he said in a statement.

Recto said the amount for principal amortization was tucked away as an off-budget item, "meaning you don't see it in the proposed national budget."

"Like interest expense, principal payments are deemed automatically appropriated. You can examine but you can't touch them. They can be scrutinized, but they can't be slashed. They're like conjoined twins," he said.

He said the P645.9-billion debt service bill next year translated to a daily debt service pay-out of P1.77 billion.

'Off-budget'

Rep. Edcel Lagman explained that the projected payment for maturing principal obligations amounting to P344.2 billion was "off-budget" under the scheme of automatic appropriation provided for by the Automatic Appropriations Act.

Lagman said both the executive and the legislative branches should work together to reduce debt servicing which was the "gold mine" in President Macapagal-Arroyo's P907.569-billion national budget proposal for 2005.

Lagman said that in comparison to the 33.2 percent allotted for debt servicing, the allocation for health was only 1.13 percent, or P10.3 billion, and 12.34 percent, or P112 billion, for education.

Small amount for health

The minuscule allotment for health care and services translated to only about 34 centavos for each Filipino per day, which was even lower than this year's 35 centavos, he said.

In addition to the huge interest payments, the budget proposal will be further reduced by the allocation for internal revenue allotments (IRA) for local government units amounting to P151.523 billion and P289.25 billion for the salaries of government personnel.

Thus, the proposed budget would relegate most of the President's 10-point agenda to the back burner, Lagman said.

He said the remaining unencumbered portion of P164.004 billion of the proposed budget translated to only P1,964.33 for each Filipino.

By comparison, the P5.39-trillion consolidated public sector debt burdens each Filipino, including children, with a P64,166 obligation.

Another P148-B debt

Another legislator, meanwhile, said the government was heavily in debt not only with foreign and domestic creditors but also with suppliers and contractors.

As of January 2004, the government owed domestic suppliers and public works contractors a total of P148.2 billion, according to Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (LP, Camarines Sur).

Accounts payable are arrears or unpaid obligations for goods delivered, services procured and public works built for the government.

Citing documents received by the House committee on appropriations, which he chairs, Andaya said that the government would be able to pay only one-third of annual accounts payable, or about P48 billion.

On top of its unpaid obligations of P100 billion, government will again accumulate debts of about P35 billion, so that by end-2004, accounts payable are projected to reach P135 billion, Andaya said.

"So if the budgetary deficit this year is P197.8 billion, one must add the P135 billion accounts payable outstanding by year's end to get the real deficit number," he said.

'Ugly fiscal picture'

Andaya noted that the "practice of delaying payments on goods and services purchased or compensation procrastination has distorted the real level of government indebtedness."

This has had the effect of window-dressing the government's "ugly fiscal picture," he said.

Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the Senate finance committee, said the President should present a definitive plan in addressing the fiscal crisis.

He said it was not enough for the President to propose cuts in legislators' pork barrel and local governments' IRA without stating how the money would be used.

"Would they be used for interest payments, for assuming liabilities of government corporations, or for programs to improve basic services?" he said in a statement.

Going loco over virgin coco

From page A1

in his own fat with "kinse años" innuendos, VCO Philippines, the association of virgin coconut oil producers, clarifies pregnant information about the product.

Once and for all, there is no such thing as a semi-virgin, according to Philippine Coconut Authority Administrator Danny Coronacion who "believes in the purity of virgins."

Meanwhile, Philippine Heart Center Director Dr. Ludegario Torres prescribes coconut oil for cooking and virgin coconut oil for health.

But how does one spot a true virgin?

Virgin oil is extracted fresh, without the use of chemicals. Plant-derived oils should remain in their unadulterated, natural state to work as nature intended them to be: food as medicine.

Nutritional biochemists in the west are slowly unearthing the healing secrets of virgin oils. They have only just discovered what "Dr. Coconut" Conrado Dayrit has known for 25 years: the healthiest virgin oil is—surprise, surprise—virgin coconut oil.

Almost overnight, every new virgin coco oil producer has declared his oil "extra" or "premium," so the poor consumer can't tell if a virgin by any other name would taste as sweet.

Virgin by any name

Categorically, the only appellation one can attach to virgin is "extra." Extra virgin olive oils are extracted from the fruits of olive tree varieties grown around the fertile Mediterranean coast.

The "extra" comes from a plant source variety, not hybrid cultivation, which affects the oil's (low) acidity level, taste and natural quality.

Likewise, the "extra," as claimed by some local virgin coconut oil producers, would have to be validated by consumer taste preference, as authorities have yet to define how various Philippine soils could affect food quality.

Virgin olive oil has received considerable attention for its health and beautifying benefits. Great for raw dressings and dips, it is susceptible to heat-caused oxidation that changes the chemical structure of all unsaturated fats into toxic trans-fatty acids in the body. This means that olive oil, corn, soybean, canola or safflower oils turn rancid in heat.

This is where coconut oil outperforms all other oils, including olive oil. As a plant-based, saturated fat, coconut oil is entirely stable in high heat. It will not turn rancid nor create free radicals harmful to health.

In a health forum, dermatologist Vermel Verallo-Rowel of the Makati Medical Center confirmed that not only is virgin coconut oil safe, it also has more benefits.

The smaller structure of its medium-chain fatty acids makes coconut oil easily absorbable, improving digestion, stimulating metabolism, lowering cholesterol levels and the body's need for vitamin E and essential fatty acids.

Oil you want

Since virgin coconut oil is extracted directly from fresh matured nuts, it has none of the aflatoxins and toxic byproducts of copra fermented in open air. The natural oil need not be refined, bleached and deodorized in high temperature and chemical solvents.

The current trend for raw living food and its optimum health benefits values natural phytochemicals, particularly vitamin E, enzymes and antioxidants in heatless, cold-pressed virgin coconut oil.

However, this delicately extracted virgin oil should appear water-white than pale yellow, taste mildly sweet with a fresh coconut scent, and should solidify easily under 25° C temperature.

If filtered successfully with its moisture content reduced, the oil should not taste sour. Otherwise, it will have to be consumed quickly.

The laborious extraction and curing time may price this virgin coco oil higher. For its price tag, it should at least disclose if the oil sustains a community-level, job-generating livelihood.

Taste and flavor

Since flavor and shelf life are as just important as its health benefits, consumers should look for virgin coconut oil that is cold-pressed at the source in a rural plantation, and removed of impurities and moisture in low heat.

An efficient and mechanized filtration system devoted primarily to virgin oil production ensures quality control. Coco oil of this kind tastes mildly sweet, does not leave a strong aftertaste and has no burnt smell like that of "latik."

Going loco over the healing powers of virgin coco oil? Head over to the National Coco Week Festival ongoing until tomorrow at the SM Mega Trade Hall in Mandaluyong City.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

3 provinces in state of calamity; death toll hits 17

From page A1

An undetermined number of people in affected areas were trapped by the floods on the roofs of their houses.

"We could not reach them by trucks so we have to use helicopters and rubber boats," operations chief Neeri Amparo of the National Disaster Management Center said on television. "But our helicopters cannot fly during darkness because they have no night vision equipment."

Amparo said she had no estimate on damage to infrastructure "because our main concern is to rescue people in the flooded areas."

If the Mandasig Dike in Candaba, Pampanga, is breached, the floodwaters could affect at least 60,000 families in the towns of San Luis, San Simon, Sta. Ana and Mexico and the Pampanga capital City of San Fernando, local officials said.

The dike is 5 meters (16.405 feet) wide and 20 meters (65.62 feet) high. Only about a meter of its thickness is left of the dike.

San Fernando Mayor Oscar Rodriguez said the floods that hit his city were the worst in five years. The floods submerged 33 villages and displaced 19,000 families.

'Dike may not hold'

"We are engaged in massive sandbagging with volunteers from nearby towns," Lapid said. "But this is only a temporary measure. If the rains continue, the dike may not hold."

"We cannot do it alone," he said. "We need the help of the national government."

Lapid advised motorists going north from Manila to take the North Expressway route going through Angeles City, saying streets around San Fernando were submerged.

Classes remained suspended in most parts of Central and Northern Luzon.

The widespread flooding in Pampanga has affected about 300,000 people in 225 villages in 18 towns.

At least 15 people were hurt when a truck and a passenger jeepney fell into a canal along the Gapan-San Fernando-Olongapo road in Bacolor town.

But not all wallowed in misery.

In Bacolor, Guagua and Lubao towns, men and boys had a field day catching fish in creeks and rivers that overflowed.

Using only hook and line, driver Dante Pineda of Lubao got a kilogram of *tilapia* from two hours of fishing.

"We also benefit from floods," he said.

People on rooftops

The dike in Barangay Culibangbang in Paniqui, Tarlac, was breached at 1 a.m. Friday.

Josefina Timoteo, Central Luzon director of the Office of Civil Defense, said two helicopters of the Armed Forces' Northern Luzon Command were sent to the area to rescue residents, some of whom reportedly gathered on rooftops.

About 1,200 of the 2,000 families in nine barangays near the dike were evacuated to two elementary school buildings in Paniqui town proper, said Tarlac Gov. Jose Yap.

Water in the affected villages was knee- to shoulder-deep.

Reports said at least 11,000 residents in Barangays Nipaco and Culibangbang were stranded as floodwaters rose to eight to 12 feet, forcing most residents to climb to the roofs of their houses.

The water rose after the earth portion of the Culibangbang Dike gave in.

Water level in the commercial district of Paniqui rose to six feet, submerging even its public market.

Pangasinan also suffers

The Pangasinan provincial board declared the province under a state of emergency to enable the provincial government to spend its calamity fund for the needs of flood victims.

Gov. Victor Agbayani said 342 villages in 38 towns and cities were flooded and that the province's fishery sector lost at least P15.7 million to the floods.

At least 29,148 families (or 1,058,849 people) were displaced by floods, Agbayani said.

In Calasiao town, Mayor Roy Macanlalay said the council declared the town under a state of calamity because all of its 24 villages were flooded.

The flood worsened because of the breach in the dike of the Sinocalan River in Barangay Alibago in Sta. Barbara town, Macanlalay said.

Vice Mayor Alvin Fernandez of the flooded Dagupan City said this was the first time that all 31 barangays in the city were submerged.

In Urdaneta City, city administrator Ronald San Juan also said all 34 barangays in the city were flooded.

"The problem is that many affected residents do not want to leave their belongings, even if their lives are already in danger," San Juan said.

The San Roque Dam in San Manuel, Pangasinan, opened four gates at 12 meters on Friday after the level at the reservoir teached 286 meters.

Landslide and floods

The water release was at the rate of 2,000 centimeters per second.

William Connell, plant manager of the San Roque Power Corp., said this was the first time that the dam opened its gates since it started operations in May 2003.

In Nueva Ecija, government workers cleared a lane of the Cagayan Valley Highway in Carranglan town after it was hit by a landslide.

At least 45 families in Barangay Barrera and 19 families in Barangay Sta. Arcadia, both in Cabanatuan City, fled to high grounds as floodwaters started to rise on Friday.

The approaches to the bridge at the boundary of Zaragoza, Nueva Ecija, and La Paz, Tarlac, were impassable to all types of vehicles. Also reported impassable were the approaches to the bridge in Barangay Labi in Bongabon, Nueva Ecija, and the bridge linking Rizal and Pantabangan.

Floods rendered Aurora province inaccessible by road from Nueva Ecija.

In Aurora, strong winds toppled electric posts, leaving the coastal province without electricity since Wednesday.

In Zambales, 15 families in Barangays Gona and Bucayan South in Sta. Cruz town were moved to their respective barangay halls for safety.

The regional OCD said at least three rivers in Central Luzon reached critical levels as of Friday morning. These were the O' Donnel and Camiling rivers in Tarlac, and the Rio Chico in Nueva Ecija.

The water level in Angat Dam in Bulacan rose to 191.41 meters and Pantabangan Dam in Nueva Ecija, 204.3 meters.

Damage to agriculture

In Bulacan, more than 47,000 residents in 96 villages in Bulacan were displaced by floods, reports from the Bulacan provincial disaster coordinating council said.

More than 4,000 hectares of agriculture land in 13 Bulacan towns were flooded, reports said.

Officials of Magat Dam in Ramon town in Isabela opened five gates of the dam and released water after the level at the reservoir reached 193.2 meters, 3.8 meters short of its critical level.

In Benguet, about P12 million worth of temperate vegetables were destroyed because of monsoon rains.

Halsema Highway and Kennon Road remain impassable while a lane in the section of Marcos Highway in Pugo, La Union, was closed due to a landslide.

In Baguio City, Mayor Braulio Yaranon suspended work in government offices in the city for the second straight day. ***Reports from Alcuin Papa, Tonette Orejas, Jo Clemente, Anselmo Roque and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Frank Cimatu, Villamor Visaya Jr. and Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

US envoy vows: No retaliation vs Manila

From page A1

Philippine policy banning the deployment of Filipino workers in Iraq, for the time being.

"On the contrary, there are American contractors who would love to do this (hire Filipino workers), but may not be able to, if the Government of the Philippines is not going to permit them to go there," he said.

Ricciardone voiced hope that the government would not stand in the way of Filipinos who "choose to calculate the risks and work for reputable employers."

'Treat them like adults'

"That's what we do with Americans who go to work in Iraq. There is no guarantee. You take reasonable precautions, you make sure people are fully informed, and you treat them like free adults," he said.

When asked at the open forum if Manila was back in the graces of the US, Ricciardone said: "This has never been a matter of affection. The affections between Americans and Filipinos, I think, will always be there."

Riicciardone, however, stressed the need for the two countries to work on the "emotional components" of their relationship.

Speculation swirled that a backlash was forthcoming from Washington in the aftermath of Manila's decision to pull out its 51-man contingent from Iraq last month to save Filipino truck driver Angelo de la Cruz from beheading by Iraqi militants.

The withdrawal had drawn reproach from the United States and other members of the so-called "Coalition of the Willing," who said this would only embolden terrorists.

More needs to be done

Ricciardone said the United States would continue to "work together" with the Philippines in tracking down and prosecuting terrorists in the country, as well as in the passage of anti-terror legislation.

He cited the gains made by Philippine authorities in the anti-terror campaign, such as the conviction of 17 Abu Sayyaf bandits for kidnapping and the neutralization of Pentagon gang leader Tahir Alonto, believed killed in a military bombardment of the gang's hideout in Mindanao.

"Far more needs to be done, but we have seen meaningful progress," Ricciardone said.

"We will continue to offer whatever support we can to Philippine legislators, law enforcers, soldiers, intelligence agencies, diplomats and prosecutors to make this country safer against international terrorists and other criminals, including drug pushers and traffickers in people," he added.

Ricciardone said the United States valued the Philippines' continuing contributions to the rebuilding of Iraq, noting that some 4,000 Filipino workers continued to provide vital services to the Iraqis and the coalition's "support efforts."

"I can only salute the concern of the government of the Philippines for the welfare and safety of Filipino workers anywhere in the world, especially in a dangerous environment, like Iraq," he said.

'Massacre of trees' in QC enrages environmentalists

From page A1

In an interview yesterday, MSBF president Lucito Bertol admitted that the trees grew "beyond" the 7-hectare property given to the foundation under Proclamation 1670 that was issued during the Marcos administration.

But he claimed that MSBF had been "allowed" throughout its 27-year-old operations to use the surrounding patches of land which belong to the National Housing Authority. He declined to elaborate on what formal or informal arrangement, or by whose authority was the foundation allowed to exceed its boundaries.

"We are not claiming that (extra) land, but we should have been notified first before the trees were bulldozed," Bertol said.

But an NHA official said that when MSBF planted trees outside its official boundaries, it had "encroached" on land that the housing agency had already leased to San Jose Builders Inc., which is now developing the property into a mixed-use commercial area and bus terminal.

"The NHA has not issued any permission to the foundation to plant beyond its seven hectares," said Higino Equipaje, manager of NHA's commercial-industrial estates department.

Equipaje also maintained that contrary to Bertol's statement, the MSBF "knew as early as July" that clearing operations in the area were to begin soon.

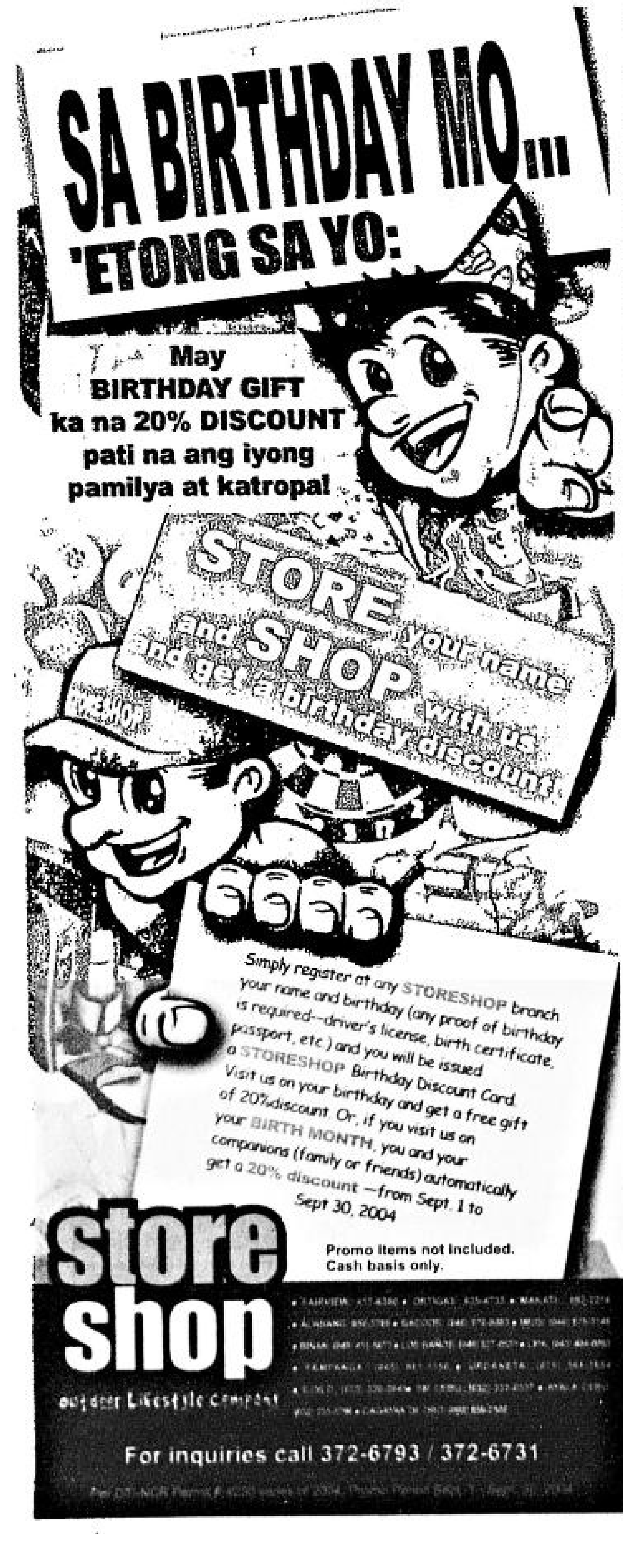
Environmentalist Odette Alcantara of Mother Earth Philippines, a colleague of Bertol's in green advocacies, said that regardless of legal issues over the land, "decency dictates that you don't just bulldoze 9,000 trees considering they are the future lungs of the city."

"Never mind the monetary value; it's all about total irreverence to life and not seeing the worth of trees," Alcantara added as she challenged the newly established environmental ombudsman to look into the incident.

In a complaint filed with the Baler substation of the Quezon City police, Bertol identified the bulldozer operators as workmen and engineers employed by San Jose Builders.

The destroyed trees include forest, ornamental and fruit-bearing varieties like molave, teak, acacia, mahogany, palawan cherry, banaba, guyabano and guapple, reported Bertol.

The complaint contains a "list of the dead" with the corresponding cost per tree.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Desk Editors **Cenon B. Bibe, Ester G. Dipasupil**

METROBRIEFS

NBI arrests suspect in pyramid scam

ENGINEER Leo Andreau Hadi, 30, came out in the open and was arrested. Hadi, president of H-Factor Marketing and Trading Corp., is accused of duping investors of P1.2 billion in an alleged pyramiding scheme. The National Bureau of Investigation said that Hadi went into hiding when charges of syndicated estafa were filed against him. He then engaged in a real estate business and was nabbed after the NBI set up a false purchase of one of his properties. He denied the allegations, claiming he himself lost P900 million in H-Factor. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Alleged kidnapper of balikbayan falls

TAXI driver Eddie Delumin is allegedly a member of a gang that kidnap balikbayans from Japan. Agents of the National Bureau of Investigation have arrested Delumin after his group allegedly abducted two people in Parañaque City on Aug 4. The driver denied the allegation but two released kidnapping victims identified him as one of six suspects who had abducted them. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Castro rape-slay trial gets a date

THE CASE of raped and murdered bank teller Candice Castro is moving forward. The Manila Regional Trial Court has set the start of the trial of accused Philippe Marcelo in October. Meanwhile, a second accused, Bebs Reyes, remains at large. *Tarra V. Quismundo*

Family speaks up for Vandolph

VANDOLPH was not driving the Ford Expedition that plunged into an unfinished underpass along Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City. His half-sister Sally Quizon told the police yesterday that a certain Allan Araza, 31, was driving the van when the incident happened Thursday morning. Sally said Vandolph was in the front passenger seat with his girlfriend. *Tina G. Santos*

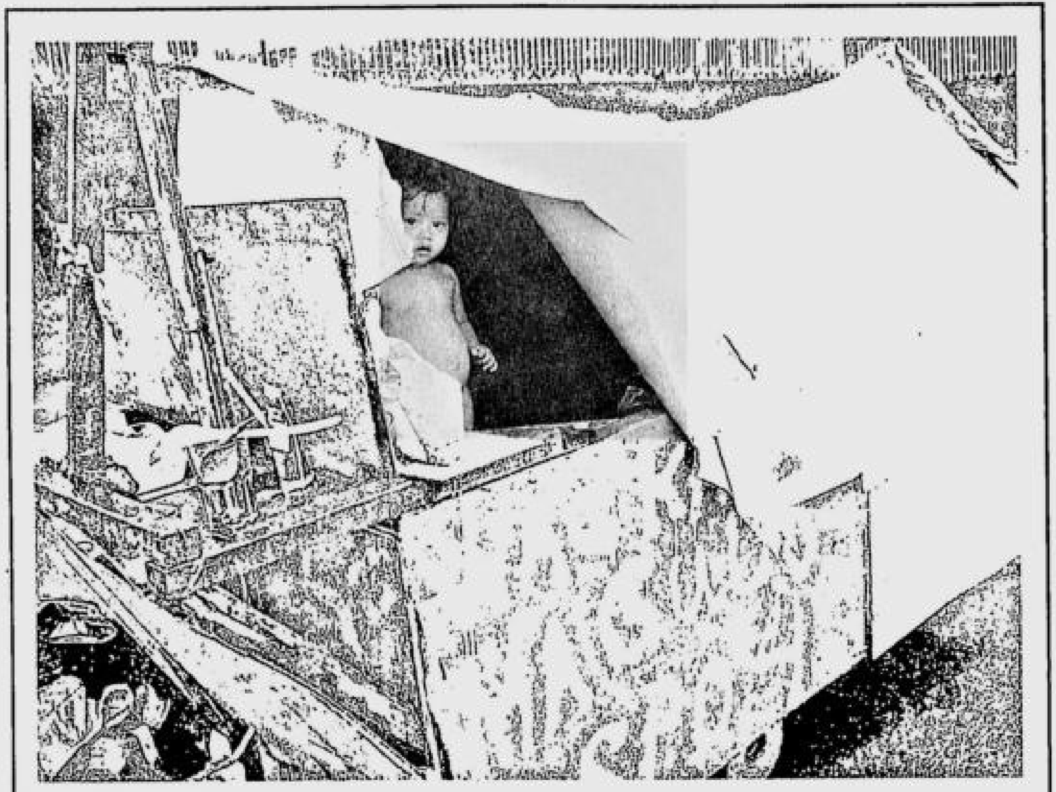
Deadly gold hunt

A 45-YEAR-OLD man was believed dead after failing to emerge from a 120-foot-long tunnel dug up in a treasure hunting site at 18 Violet Road, Pilar Village, Las Piñas City. Rescuers have yet to find Guardencio Camaia of Sta. Rosa, Laguna, who got into the tunnel on Wednesday. *Jerome Aning*

Cabbie's body found

THE DECOMPOSING body of Ronaldo Reyes, 27, of Sareno Compound, Tandang Sora, Quezon City, was found inside a Mitsubishi Adventure (XKX 437) that had been towed in Makati City. He was reported abducted in Quezon City. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

Missionary seeks father's return



INNOCENCE

A child enjoys the relative safety of their home on wheels as he waits for his mother to return with their lunch. The photo was taken along NIA Road in Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

WHEN all has failed, a son falls on his knees before God.

Gaspar, the missionary son of billionaire industrialist Francisco Guy, yesterday sought for unity in his family through a prayer.

"It's my prayer that my family be reunited as before, since on one side there are my mother and sisters and on the other, there's my brother," said Gaspar, who has turned his back on their wealth to live a life of poverty as part of the group Focolare.

From Focolare's mission house in Tagaytay City, the eldest among Guy's five children called on his brother Gilbert to "do much to bring the family together because in this moment he has my dad."

Appliance maker

Guy, the 78-year-old patriarch of the family that owns appliance maker 3D Industries and Northern Islands Corp., has been in the custody of Gilbert since March 3.

Guy's 74-year-old wife, Simny, and their three daughters have said that Gilbert has been keeping their father against his will and has prevented their father from seeing or talking to them.

They have expressed belief that Gilbert was holding on to Guy because of financial difficulties afflicting his company, Smartnet Communications.

In a tearful appeal, Simny and her daughters said they were willing to help Gilbert with his money problems.

Captivity denied

However, their brother has denied holding their father a virtual prisoner at his home in Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

"We're all praying that the family can still be reunited," Gaspar's prayer said.

"Everyone has his problems, and Gilbert has his, too. But I'm sure that if we're united, we can help each other out," he concluded.

Gaspar has been serving with Focolare for 30 years since his college days.

The group is a Catholic movement which promotes the ideals of unity and universal brotherhood aimed at spiritual and social renewal. It gathers Catholic and non-Catholics for its cause.

Manila tightens belt; hirings put on hold

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE MANILA City government has stopped its recruitment of new employees and the promotion of city employees to save on funds.

"We stopped hiring for the meantime as part of (President Macapagal-Arroyo's) austerity measures," said Nenita Rivera, acting assistant city personnel officer.

Rivera said the City Personnel Office was suspending the acceptance of job applications while the nation was in the midst of a financial squeeze.

Additional manpower, she said, would cost the city additional salary expenses. Of the city's total P5.9-billion budget for this year, salaries get the biggest allocation at 39 percent, or P2.27 billion.

"Usually, hiring is continuous. But with this situation we are stopping it," Rivera said.

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Rizal town officer dies in ambush

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE HEAD of the Public Order and Safety Office of Rodriguez (formerly Montalban), Rizal, was gunned down by four assassins Thursday night, the police said.

Investigators said the killing of Renato Evasco, 64, bore marks of the Sparrow Unit, a unit of the New People's Army that engaged in summary execution in the '80s and early '90s.

The rebels are known to have a strong presence in the town.

"The style of the ambush showed it was the NPA that did it," said Supt. Dominador Penid, town police chief.

Four young-looking assassins waited for Evasco on J.P. Rizal Street, Barangay Manggahan, at about 6 p.m.

The official was on his way home when two suspects blocked his path and shot him four times in the body.

Another suspect then pumped another bullet into his head. The suspects then left.

Evasco died on the spot.

Sr. Supt. Leocadio Santiago, Rizal police chief, said the police had received intelligence reports as early as two months ago that Evasco was on the rebel group's hit list.

High-stakes gambling solons

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

YOU WANT to know where our congressmen spend their freetime? No, sir, they don't stay home poring over committee reports or studying the bills they will file in Congress the next day or discuss legislative matters with their colleagues.

Some congressmen and congresswomen engage in small talk with their constituents. Others travel abroad at government expense. Others talk with contractors about how much money they will get from projects undertaken from their pork barrel funds.

And still others gamble and lose millions.

For two weeks running, Representatives Noli Fuentebella of Camarines Sur and Jacinto Paras of Negros Oriental have been playing high stakes games at the casino at the Heritage Hotel on Roxas Boulevard and E. delos Santos Avenue in Pasay City.

My sources say the two have been betting a maximum of P4 million each every night for two weeks running.

"Sometimes they win, but oftentimes they lose," casino habitués say.

The two congressmen play at one of the exclusive VIP rooms of the casino with former Sen. Ernesto Maceda. But Maceda, said my sources, loses only a maximum of P200,000 a night.

Congressmen Fuentebella and Paras lose a high of P4 million each. "If they win, they only win P1 million which they lose the next night," say my sources.

Fuentebella and Paras are two examples of why the pork barrel allocation of legislators should be scrapped.

There should be a sign posted at the entrance to the casinos: "Please don't gamble with taxpayers' money here."

* * *

By the way, what happened to that presidential order issued during martial law—but surely must still be in effect today—banning government officials from the casinos?

A lot of government officials lose millions of pesos at the casinos.

A governor of a province outside Metro Manila was defeated in his reelection bid because his constituents found that he was gambling away taxpayers' money at the casinos.

But the governor's son, who's now a high official of the province, hasn't learned a lesson from his father. The young man frequents the casinos and loses millions every week.

* * *

You want a sampling of the kind of people we elected to our Senate, supposedly composed of men and women of wisdom?

Listen to an interview radio station dwIZ recently had with Sen. Loi Ejercito, one of the mother-son tandem in the august body, the other being newly elected Jinggoy Estrada.

The topic was about her being a new member of the powerful Commission on Appointments. The interview was in Filipino and I took the liberty of translating it into English.

Here's the interview in toto:

Reporter: Ma'am, as a new member of the Commission on Appointments, what is your position on the new appointments made by President Arroyo to her Cabinet?

Senator Ejercito: Right now, we haven't elected our members yet. We postponed it because we lacked members who attended because, maybe, of the typhoon. That's why, ahhhhh, we postponed it.

Reporter: Ma'am, what's your position on the appointment of Secretary (Angelo) Reyes as DILG secretary? Haven't you changed your stand questioning his appointment?

Senator Ejercito: Ahhhhh, you see we are still studying everything, noh! If there are people who question his appointment we will study it, especially this one of Angelo Reyes.

No further comment!

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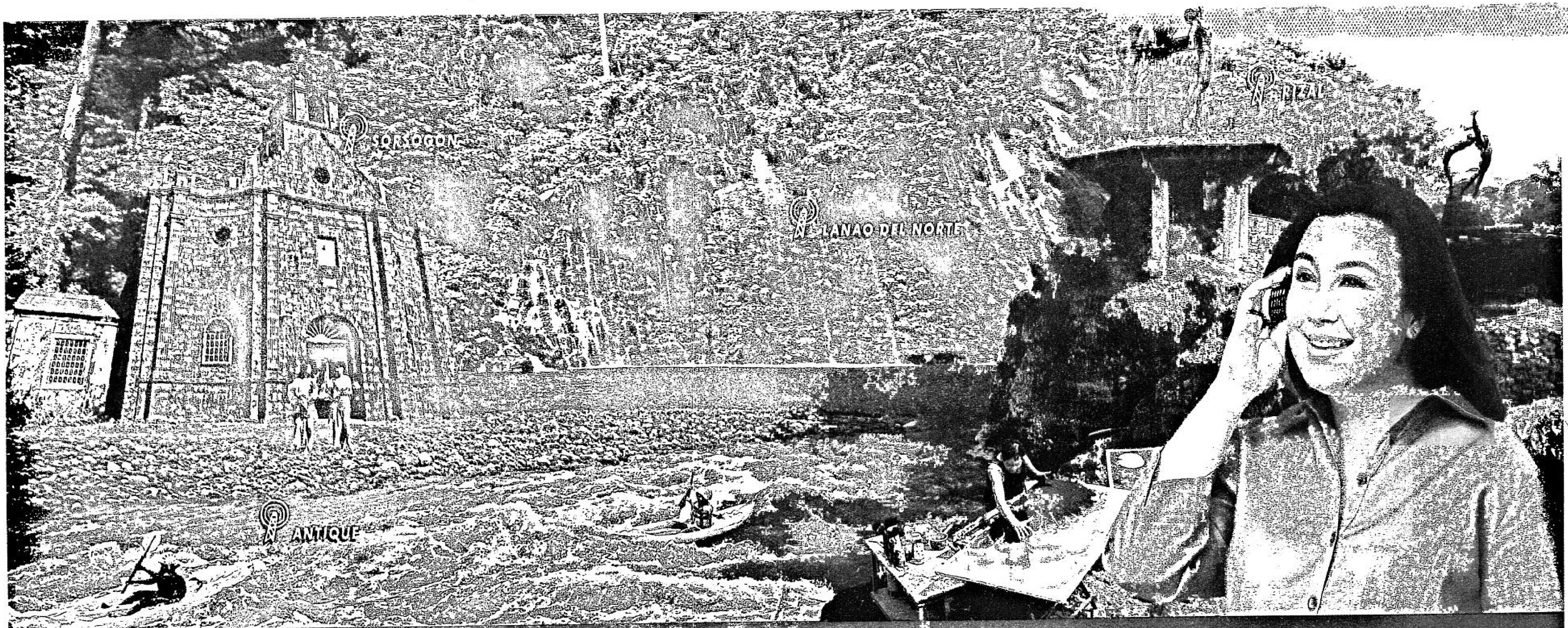

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RP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Aug. 28, 2004 *(All times Manila time)*
TAEKWONDO Faliro Sports Pavilion
(Women's Under 67 kg; Premilinaries;3:12 p.m.)
Mary Antoinette Rivero vs Vanina Sanchez Beron, Argentina
(Men's Under 80 kg; Preliminaries; 4:42 p.m.)
Donald Geisler III vs Bahri Tanrikulu, Turkey

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■ Django, Alex lead On Cue 3 field /A23
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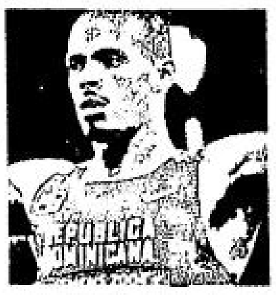
■ US finally plays like contenders /A27
■ US forges track sweep /A26



■ NY-born hurdler gives D. Republic first gold /A26

Medal or bust for Geisler, Rivero

Remaining medal hopes face tough rivals

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.
News Editor

ATHENS—Pray.

That's about the only thing left for the two survivors of the country's medal hopes as they go into action at the Faliro Sports Pavilion Saturday, the final day of taekwondo competitions and the penultimate day of the 28th Olympic Games.

So much is riding on the shoulders of Mary Antoinette Rivero, at 16 the youngest member of the Philippine contingent, and Donald Geisler III, the veteran of the Sydney Olympics, as they attempt what others before them had failed to do—win a medal in Athens.

Rivero, who is living out an Olympic dream she had nurtured since early childhood, takes on Argentina's Vanina Sanchez Beron in the first round of the women's under-67 kg division hoping for an easy victory that would launch her all the way to the final.

But Rivero won't be facing a patsy. She's up against the second placer in the lightweight (55-60 kg) class when the world championship was held in Manila in 1995.

ATHENS 2004

Undoubtedly the country's best fighter in any division, Geisler, too, is aiming to go all the way to the final. But he faces a tough opening-round opponent in Bahri Tanrikulu, also Turkey's best fighter and one of the favorites in the men's under-80 class.

Tanrikulu, the world middleweight (78-84 kg) champion in 2001, welterweight (72-78) silver medalist in 1999 and middleweight bronze medalist last year, was the taekwondo world's "most outstanding performer" in 2000, the first Turk to win such award.

Either way, it's going to be tough for both Rivero and the 25-year-old Geisler just to win a medal that has eluded 13 other Filipino athletes in the Games.

The only other Filipino who has not seen action yet is long-distance runner Eduardo Buenavista, who will run the marathon on Sunday, only hours before the Games' closing ceremonies. But he is not expected to finish in the medal. Just finishing the tough, hot and hilly course from Marathon to Athens is already an accomplishment for Buenavista.

In taekwondo, it's only four wins to the gold. But that, according to Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert Aventajado, is "easier said than done."

Aventajado said the taekwondo team was aware of the pressure of winning a medal to salvage what had so far been a disastrous Philippine campaign in the Olympic Games.

"They know they're expected to deliver, but we're not thinking about that," he said. "What we need to do is to focus more on what the opponent is doing."

While Aventajado lamented the bad breaks that burdened Tshomlee Go, the first of the three jins to see action, in his first round loss to Spain's

MEDAL/ A22

DONALD Geisler goes up against Turkey's Bahri Tanrikulu, the taekwondo world's "most outstanding performer" in 2000, in the first round.

Lopez still at a loss over ring debacle

By Artemio T. Engracia Jr.

ATHENS—Manny Lopez is the man in the hot seat. Everyday at the Peristeri Olympic Boxing Hall, he sits on the jury's perch, watching the fights—and the judges of the fight.

As a member of Olympic boxing's jury of appeals, he also scores, but his scoring matters only when there's a fight protest and the judges' scoring will have to be reviewed.

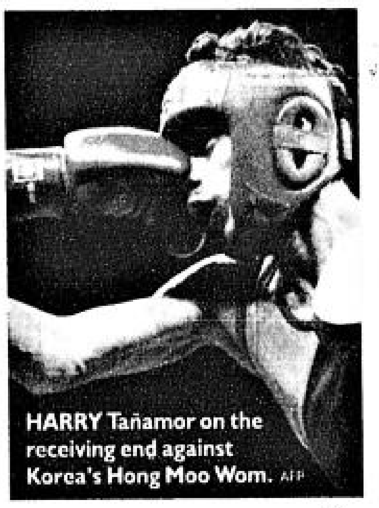
When he's not on the jury's table, he sits elsewhere in the Olympic arena, squirming just the same.

"I've been trying to figure out what went wrong," Lopez said during a break in the boxing competitions in Athens. He's referring, of course, to the debacle that has befallen the Philippine boxing team. By the time the second round of the competitions ended, the four Filipinos had been wiped out.

"I'd be a fool not to admit that something's wrong with our boxing program," he said. "It's quite obvious we're not doing well."

Much had been expected from them. But one after another, middleweight Christopher Camat, fly-

LOPEZ/ A22



HARRY Tañamor on the receiving end against Korea's Hong Moo Wom. AFP

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First-time winner Taiwan strikes twice; US leads tally

ATHENS—Taiwan and the Dominican Republic made history with their first Olympic golds Thursday while doping issues provided an angry edge to the men's 200 meters and sent more athletes home from the Athens Games.

Taiwan won both taekwondo golds on offer on Day 13 and Felix Sanchez won the men's 400-m hurdles for the Caribbean nation's first-ever gold.

Other winners were the US women's soccer team, New Zealand with a 1-2 finish in the men's triathlon, the German women's field hockey team and the Italian women's water polo team.

The United States leads the medal tally with 28 gold, 31 silver and 24 bronze. China is second with 25-17-12 with three more days of competition.

Another bronze medal was stripped when a member of Ukraine's lightweight sculls tested positive to doping and a Hungarian weightlifter was also kicked out. Hungary's discus champion has already lost his gold medal and its hammer gold medalist Adrian Annus—also under suspicion of doping—retired Thursday complaining how he was treated by Olympic officials.

The tally of returned medals so far: two golds and two bronze.

At the Olympic stadium, the pro-Greek crowd had hoped to watch Kostas Kenteris defend his 200-m gold medal from Sydney. Instead, they watched Shawn Crawford lead an American medals sweep in a personal best time of 19.79 seconds. Bernard Williams was second and 100-m gold medalist Justin Gatlin was third.

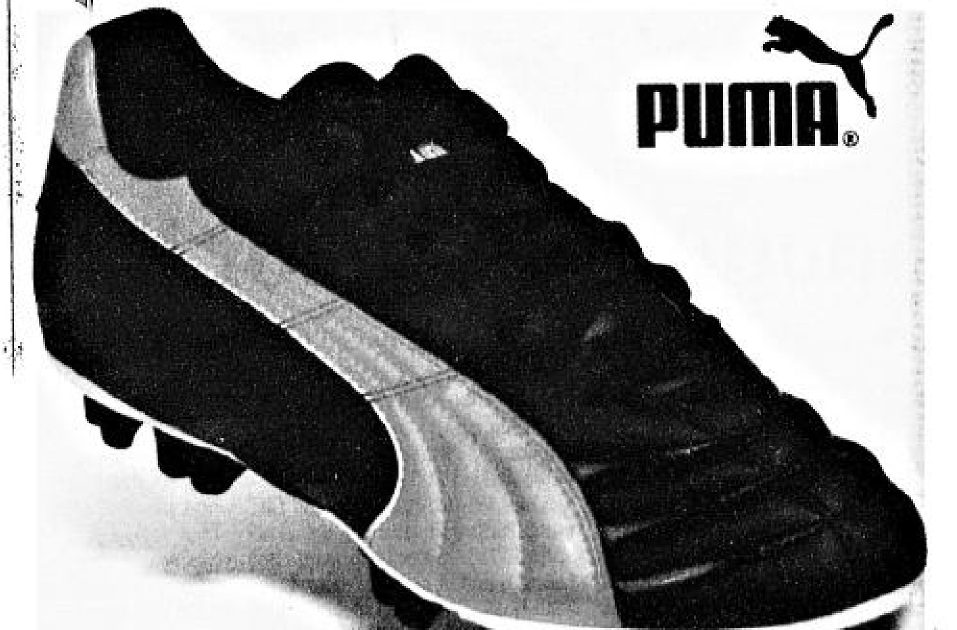
The start of the race was delayed for four minutes because spectators were booing, whistling in derision and chanting "Hel-las, Hellas"—Greek for Greece.

Kenteris, a national hero, was the favorite to light the flame but withdrew before the Games had started when he and training partner Katerina Thanou figured in a suspicious motorcycle accident just hours after missing a drug test.

Chen Shih-hsin won Taiwan's historic gold in the women's 49-kg category, with Chu Mu-yen clinching the men's 58-kg class, send-

FIRST/ A22

FAVORITE Richard Phillips (second from left) of Jamaica tackles the first barrier in the 110-m hurdles semifinal at the Olympic Stadium. Phillips sailed to the finals with a wire-to-wire win. AFP



SPORTS Central

Medal or bust for Geisler, Rivero

From page A21

Juan Ramos on Thursday, he said he had no doubt whatsoever that the Filipinos were capable of winning.

Go lost a close decision to Ramos in the first round, 7-6, and was hoping to fight in the repechage round to salvage a bronze when Ramos himself lost in the next round to Chinese-Taipei's Chu Mu-yen. Ramos' loss eliminated Go from the repechage round and the competition.

Aventajado had all praises for Go's gallant stand.

"I have nothing to complain about the way Tshomlee fought," he said.

"He was consumed, he was focused. He performed very well. There was no need for him to be embarrassed. I'm proud of him."

But anything can still happen, he said. "If you ask me if we can still hope for a medal, the answer is yes, certainly."

Rivero, certainly, will be going for that first victory against Sanchez Beron, the 25-year-old Argentinian who, until now, has not shown up on the radar screen of contenders in that weight category.

If the teenaged Filipina makes it through the first round, she won't have to face the favorite in the category—South Korea's Hwang Kyung Sun—until the final match. But the Korean still has to hurdle another favorite, Luo Wei of China.

The biggest stumbling block to a medal for Geisler would be his Turkish opponent. A victory over Tanrikulu would clear the path for him to a possible silver medal and a place in the final round, where he could meet the top favorite, American Steven Lopez, or Mexico's Victor Manuel Garibay Estrada, for the gold.

A first round loss relegates a fighter to the repechage round—provided his conqueror makes it to the final match—where the best anyone can hope for is a bronze medal.

A bronze is well within the grasp of Rivero and Geisler, said Aventajado, who has headed taekwondo since the ancient Korean martial art was organized in the Philippines in the 1980s.

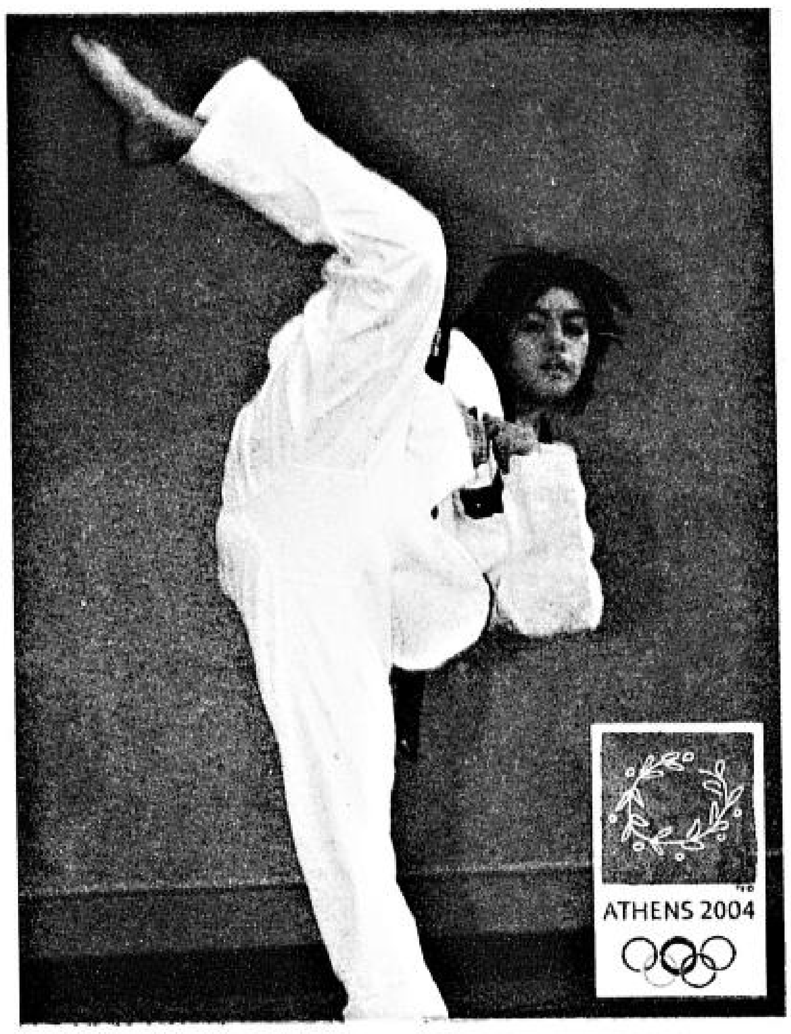
"They have what it takes to win," he said of the Filipino jins. "They're very well prepared. The fact that they qualified for the Olympics speaks well of their skills and capacity."

The Filipinos had to compete in the qualifying tournaments—Go in Paris in the world qualifying last December and Geisler and Rivero in the Asian qualifying in Bangkok last February—to earn their ticket to Athens, as did the 15 other entries in each division.

The only thing left for them to do, Aventajado said, is pray.

"I have no doubt they can deliver," he said. "But there are things beyond our control, like the breaks, or the officiating."

The prayers should take care of that.



MOMENT OF TRUTH: Marie Antoinette Rivero will have a relatively easy passage to the final if she hurdles her first fight.

SAMSUNG

Lopez still at a loss . . .

From page A21

weight Violito Payla, light welterweight Romeo Brin and light flyweight Harry Tañamor went by the wayside.

Brin and Tañamor went farther than the other two. They survived the first round, but they were gone by the next round.

How the Filipinos lost their fights is still a puzzle to Lopez.

"I can't understand their performance," Lopez said. "They didn't play up to par. We expected them to fight the way they did in France and Bulgaria."

That's where the Filipinos spent most of the two months prior to the Games in Athens. There they honed their skills, sparred with the world's best fighters handled by the world's best coaches. They are all here. But most of the boxers they sparred with and outclassed in the boxing camps there are still fighting in Athens.

"We saw in France and Bulgaria how they performed against the best in the world and our assessment was that they would do well here," Lopez said.

But what he saw in Athens, from the vantage point of a juror, appalled him. And from where he was, there was nothing he could do.

"I was shocked," he said. When they climbed the Olympic ring, they were no longer the fighters who impressed many in the boxing camps.

"Their movements were different."

Lopez inherited the leadership of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines from his father, former Manila mayor Mel Lopez, who had to come to Athens to take care of the boxers because the younger Lopez had been called to serve in the jury of appeals.

From 1987 onwards, father and son had presided over a boxing program that not only broke the Philippines' medal drought in the Olympics since 1964 but also produced a harvest of two bronze medals and a silver from 1988 in Seoul to 1996 in Atlanta.

Of the nine medals won by the Philippines so far after 80 years in the Olympic movement, boxers have won five. Jose "Cely" Villanueva won the bronze in 1932 in Los Angeles, then Anthony Villanueva took the silver in 1964 in Tokyo. What followed was a long drought, before Leopoldo Serantes, now under the tutelage of the Lopezes, captured the bronze in Seoul in 1988 and Roel Velasco matched that feat in Barcelona in 1992.

LOPEZ PDI PHOTO

The high point for Philippine boxing in the Olympics was Atlanta in 1996, when Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco went all the way to the finals before losing.

Then came Sydney and Athens. Zero.

"Obviously, it's back to the drawing board," Lopez said, repeating what he said in Sydney four years ago.

That includes getting more government and private funding, getting new coaches, perhaps rehiring the Cuban coach, Raul Liranza, who was in the corner of Velasco when he won the silver.

Lopez is green with envy at the funding the Thai government is providing its boxers, who have produced the country's first Olympic gold and a haul of several other medals after that.

"There's nothing wrong with our talent search, either," Lopez said. "It is in the international level of competition that we are deficient."

Changing boxing styles is also in the drawing board, Lopez said, so much so that he intends to send Filipino boxers to learn ballroom dancing to improve on their footwork. He cites the Cuban experience.

"The Cubans are excellent dancers," he said, referring to the powerhouse boxing teams that Cuba sends to the Olympics.

The young Lopez is looking beyond the Southeast Asian Games in Manila next year. He is thinking of a four-year program that will culminate, he hopes, in a gold medal in the 29th Olympics in Beijing.

For producing the only medals that the Philippines have won since the 1936 Berlin Games, boxing is under intense pressure to produce that elusive gold. And for producing nothing in the past two Olympics, boxing is taking a beating.

An appropriate analogy is found in classical Greek mythology, where Sisyphus, the luckless king of Ephyra was condemned to spending eternity in the Hades pushing an enormous boulder up the mountain only for the boulder to roll back down the mountain each time he nears the summit.

Every Olympiad, until he reaches the top of that mountain called the gold medal, Manny Lopez is Sisyphus.

First-time winner . . .

From page A21

ing Taiwanese fans delirious.

The medal ceremony was more sober—because of its sovereignty dispute with China, Taiwan is not permitted to use its actual flag and anthem in international competitions.

Instead, Chen and Chu had to watch as a more generic Taiwanese flag, featuring the Olympic rings, raised to the tune of the "Song of the national flag."

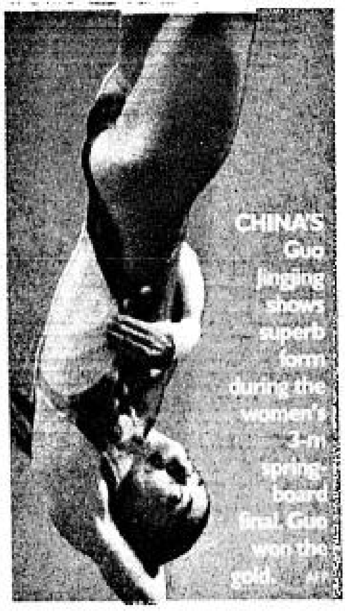
"I would like to dedicate this medal to everyone in Taiwan," said Chen, who cried throughout the medal ceremony. "I'm pretty sure that everyone in Taiwan will be happy for the gold medals won today."

Sanchez's gold was sweet after he failed to make the final in Sydney four years ago. Since then he's worn a souvenir from the Sydney Games in every race and hasn't been beaten.

One day after reaching the long jump final, Marion Jones ran the second leg of the US 400 relay team that stormed into the final. Jones is under investigation for doping, but is clear to race. However, should Jones be found guilty of doping, the US could lose any medal it wins in the relay.

Germany upset the Dutch to win its first women's field hockey gold, 2-1, in front of an orange sea of 7,000 mostly Dutch fans.

The US beat Brazil in extra time with Abby Wambach's powerful 10-m header to win the women's soccer gold, 2-1.



CHINA'S Guo Jingjing shows superb form during the women's 3-m springboard final. Guo won the gold. AFP

New Zealand had a rare 1-2 finish when Hamish Carter beat Bevan Docherty in the men's triathlon.

Russian Andrey Moiseev won the modern pentathlon, beating Andrejus Zadneprovskis of Lithuania and Libor Capalini of Czech Republic.

The United States reached the men's basketball semifinals with a 102-94 win over previously undefeated Spain. They'll play Argentina who beat Greece, 69-64.

Lithuania also advanced to the semifinals for the fourth consecutive Olympics, remaining unbeaten with a 95-75 victory over China. They'll play Italy which beat Puerto Rico, 83-70. *AP*

Olympics, SEA Games big business

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

AFTER our failure yet again to win a boxing medal in the Olympics, some friends have started singing a different tune, so to speak. So, some of them have asked me this: "When are we going to host the Olympic Games?"

My standard reply was, of course: "Are you kidding?"

"I kid you not," said one, a close friend of Valentin Dakuykoy. "Aren't all members of the Olympic Family qualified to host the Olympic Games?"

I said, "Unfortunately, not every country is qualified."

"Why not?" came the quick retort. "The SEA Games nations host the SEA Games on a rotation basis, which means all the member-nations of the Association of South East Asian Nations are given equal chances to stage the biennial meet. In fact, aren't we going to host the SEA Games next year?"

We are hosting it next year but then, the SEA Games cannot be compared with the Olympics. For one, the SEAG is a regional event while the Olympiad is a world event. We can never host such a magnificent sporting spectacle like the Olympics until such time that we've become First World.

And that cannot, perhaps, happen in our lifetime, given the fiscal crisis that we are encountering at the moment.

In fact, not a single member of the Asean can have the financial capacity to host the Olympic Games.

In Athens alone, the budget for security had been pegged at $1.2 billion. That's more than quintuple the annual budget of our government.

And the total budget for the Athens Olympics, in case you want to know, is more than $7 billion.

The Olympiad has become so big Third World countries like us have no chance, let alone business, to host it.

You might say Greece isn't First World. Maybe, but then Greece isn't exactly Third World either. Do you know that there are also thousands of Filipinos working there? Any country that has Filipinos considered as OFWs is now almost considered First World.

And who said Greece wasn't qualified to host the Olympiad?

It owns the birthright to the Games, having been born there in 776 BC. If just for that alone, the debate of whether or not Greece had the capacity—financial or otherwise—to stage it should end.

Before 776 BC, in 449 BC, Greece hosted what was to be the birth pains of the Olympics, in its ancient city called Olympia.

Canceled by the Roman Emperor Theodosius I after it was deemed to be a pagan exercise, the Frenchman aristocrat, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, revived the Olympiad in 1896. The venue for its revival was rightly none other than Athens.

It was but fitting that the 100th year of the Olympics be held in Athens in 1996. But the politics of commercialism led organizers to haul the Olympiad that year off to Atlanta, the headquarters of Coke. Greece had so willingly given it up in the name of Olympic solidarity; it is now hosting the Olympiad with big help from the world's giant corporations, not to mention the cash-rich International Olympic Committee (IOC). Since the smashing commercial success of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics through the marketing genius of chair Peter Ueberroth of the Olympic Organizing Committee, the IOC has grown as one of the world's richest conglomerates.

Who said sports isn't big business?

Like virtually all religions, sports has become big business.

And so, even the SEA Games had to be big business. Otherwise, it could die a natural death.

Contrary to doomsday punks, our country will earn from staging the SEA Games, if only the people tasked to run it know the formula of how to do it. If I were GMA, I'd treat the 2005 SEA Games as a potential moneymaker and not just to showcase our country as a tourist haven. The tourism thing has become an old, tired line. It's about time we talked about specifics and drop such crap as WOW! Philippines if we want to make our country loved by the world again.

Perhaps, instead of thinking that the SEA Games will mean added expenses to the government, GMA should instead think of searching for someone who could turn things around—as in naming a tested corporate genius, if not a giant in the business world, to head the organizing committee. The appointee, whose integrity must be immaculately white as a bed sheet, should have nothing in mind but to treat the SEA Games as a business venture out to make money—at all costs if need be.

I have three candidates in mind. Sorry, but I will only divulge their names to the President.

Sputtering 4th for RP in Putra Cup

By Musong R. Castillo

LIPPO KARAWACI, Indonesia—The Philippine Men's team turned in a mediocre final round of one-over 217 Friday and slumped to its second-worst finish of fourth place in the prestigious Putra Cup.

Tall Michael Bibat and pint-sized Boyet Saragoza carded identical one-under 71s as the Filipinos failed to overtake former whipping squad Myanmar for third place after Marvin Dumandan and Jun Bernis struggled with 75s.

The Filipinos wound up with an 866 total, seven shy of the Burmese and 29 behind the winning 837 total of Thailand, which rallied with a day-best 210 to win Southeast Asia's official team championship for the third straight year.

"We just never got it going," said RP delegation head Jake Ayson after the Philippines narrowly avoided duplicating a fifth-place finish in Kota Kinabalu in 2002.

Thais Wisut Artjanawat and Chinarat Padungsil churned out a 69 and a 70, respectively, and Ben Leong bungled a crucial shot in the 70th hole as Malaysia blew the lead it held since opening day.

Leong chunked a makeable 12-foot chip on the 16th fringe to end up with an unlikely bogey and sign for a level 72, and Malaysia got only a 73 from Siva Chandhran Supramaniam to end up second, two shots back.

Wisut won the individual men's title by two over Chinarat. Leong finished tied for third with teammate Mohd Sukree, who turned out to be the best Malaysian scorer yesterday with a 70.

A pall of gloom surrounded the Philippine delegation as the Juniors also sputtered, losing a grip on second place to also finish fourth behind Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia with a 224 for the day and an 874 overall.

It was actually a sweep for the Thais as Teerawat Paipong won the individual junior race with a 276 total despite checking in with a 74. Thailand tallied an 843 to win the Lion City Cup with the Singaporeans 31 strokes behind.

Matthew Manotoc turned in a 75 but still finished fourth at 287. Tonlits Asistio chipped in with a 76 and Laurence Negrido 73. Gino Bunyi's 82 did not count.

Manotoc and Bibat, greenhorns compared to their teammates, ended up as the best Filipinos in the seven-nation event.

The 20-year-old, 6-foot-2 Bibat, a rookie in the men's team, booked the highest individual finish of a budding career by checking in sixth in the 28-man field with a 284 total.

He rallied from a three-over card in his first four holes with the poise of a veteran, carrying the fight for the Filipinos for the third straight day.

Saragoza, on the other hand, was three-under going to the final two holes until he missed the green on the par-3 16th. He chipped to within seven feet but missed his second putt from a foot away for a 5.

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OFF TO WORLD MATCH PLAY: Romeo Chong (third from left), winner of the HSBC golf tournament, shows off his trophy at the event's awards rites recently at the Manila Golf and Country Club. Chong also won business-class tickets for two to London courtesy of Cathay Pacific as well as a Golf Hospitality package to see the HSBC World Match Play Tournament in Surrey, England, in October. Celebrating with him are (from left) HSBC CEO Warner Manning, Diageo Philippines president Charles Ireland and Cathay country manager Mark Sutch.

CdO hosts triathletes tomorrow

CAGAYAN de Oro City will host the 4th staging of the 2004 National Age Group Triathlon (NAGT) series tomorrow.

Sanctioned by the Triathlon Association of the Philippines, the 750-m swim, 20-K bike, 5-K run, organized locally by the Cagayan de Oro Triathlon Association headed by Al Manaloto, will start at Nicsin Beach Resort in Opol and end at Divisoria. It is expected to attract more than 60 triathletes from Mindanao and the Visayas.

The series has produced members of the national triathlon team in the past, according to TRAP secretary general Mon Marchan, who is supervising the event in lieu of TRAP president Tom Carrasco who is currently at the Athens Olympics.

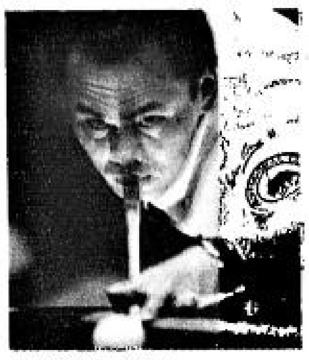
The first three legs of the series, sponsored this year by Speedo, Asian Center for Insulation, Reliv, PowerBar, Viajero, PSC, and the POC, saw Mark Yamoyam halt Sean Lim's bid for three straight victories in the men's division. Lim, a UST varsity swimmer, won the first two legs in Danao City, Cebu, and in Batawan, Negros Oriental.

The event is also sponsored and supported locally by the Cagayan de Oro City government headed by Mayor Donkoy Emano, ABS-CBN Cagayan de Oro, Coca-Cola Bottlers, Marbert Bicycles, and Sandugo.

Race directors are Jackie Neri and Joan Manaloto.

REYES

PAGULAYAN


BUSTAMANTE

Bata, Alex head On Cue 3 field

REIGNING world champion Alex Pagulayan and Hall of Famer Efren "Bata" Reyes head a crack field competing in the "On Cue 3: Continental Conquest" tournament starting at 10 a.m. tomorrow at the Robinsons Galleria Trade Hall in Mandaluyong City.

Pagulayan and Reyes will be joined by 2003 world No. 1 Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Vietnam Southeast Asian Games titlist Warren Kiamco, Asian 9-ball Manila leg champion Lee Van Corteza and 12 other world-rated players in the tournament organized by Puyat Sports, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. and Studio 23.

Also entered are 2003 world champion Thorsten Hohmann of Germany, 2001 world champion Mika Immonen of Finland, 2003 US Open winner Ralf Souquet of Germany, 2003 World Pool League king Rodney Morris of the US and 2004 World Pool semifinalist Marcus Chamat of Sweden.

Other Asians vying in the $48,000 event are Taiwanese Chao Fong-pang, the 2000 world champion; Busan Asian Games gold medalist Yang Ching-shun, Chang Pei-wei and 15-year-old Wu Chia-ching; and Japanese Kunihiko Takahashi, the 1998 world champion, and 2000 Japan Open winner Satoshi Kawabata.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

Laguna Spring five stakes lead in southern swing

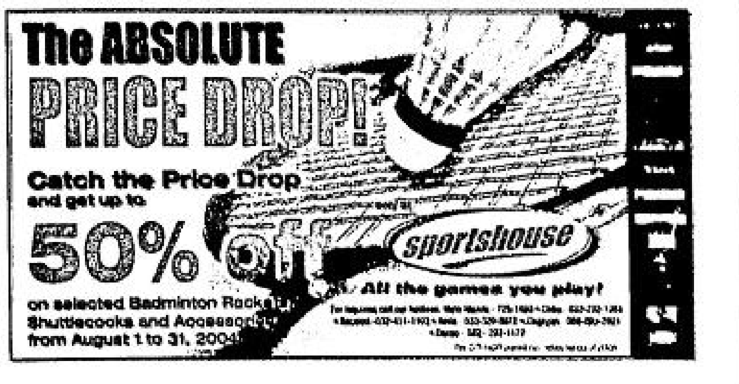
ILOILO CITY—Northern division leader Laguna Spring (4-3) will start its perilous road swing in the south as they collide with the Iloilo Warriors at 6 p.m. today in the NBC (National Basketball Conference) national championships at the Iloilo Sports Complex here.

The Spring Cooking Oil-backed squad of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro will have the odds stacked against them as the two northern teams who came before them have combined a 1-7 record.

Forward Taguig (5-6) was the only team thus far to snatch a victory in the south at the expense of the cellar-dweller Cagayan de Oro Stars while the Baguio Cardinals (4-6) went home winless.

"We have to win our first game. This game will set the tone of our swing here," Spring playing-coach Mike Buendia said.

Laguna scored a 79-70 win over the Warriors in their first encounter at their homecourt.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Belasco eyes long-term pact with SMB

By June Navarro

NIC Belasco wants a long-term contract with San Miguel Beer but says he will be satisfied with any offer from the Beermen.

"I would be glad to end my career with San Miguel and I hope to get a long contract," said the 31-year-old Belasco during his contract-signing as endorser of GNC health products yesterday in Mandaluyong City.

Belasco, on his second year as a GNC endorser together with Alaska's Ali Peek, has an expiring contract with the Beermen at the end of the year.

Under a new rule, teams are required to extend the contracts of players whose pacts end in December to ensure unhampered performance until the end of the All-Filipino Cup in February.

BELASCO

The 2004 PBA season unfurls in October.

"Everybody wants a big contract. It's like a fight for survival out there. You need to train and play hard to keep you going," said Belasco, an eight-year veteran who has five championship rings with the Beermen.

Since the Asian financial crisis hit the country four years ago, the PBA has restricted teams to signing up key players for only three years.

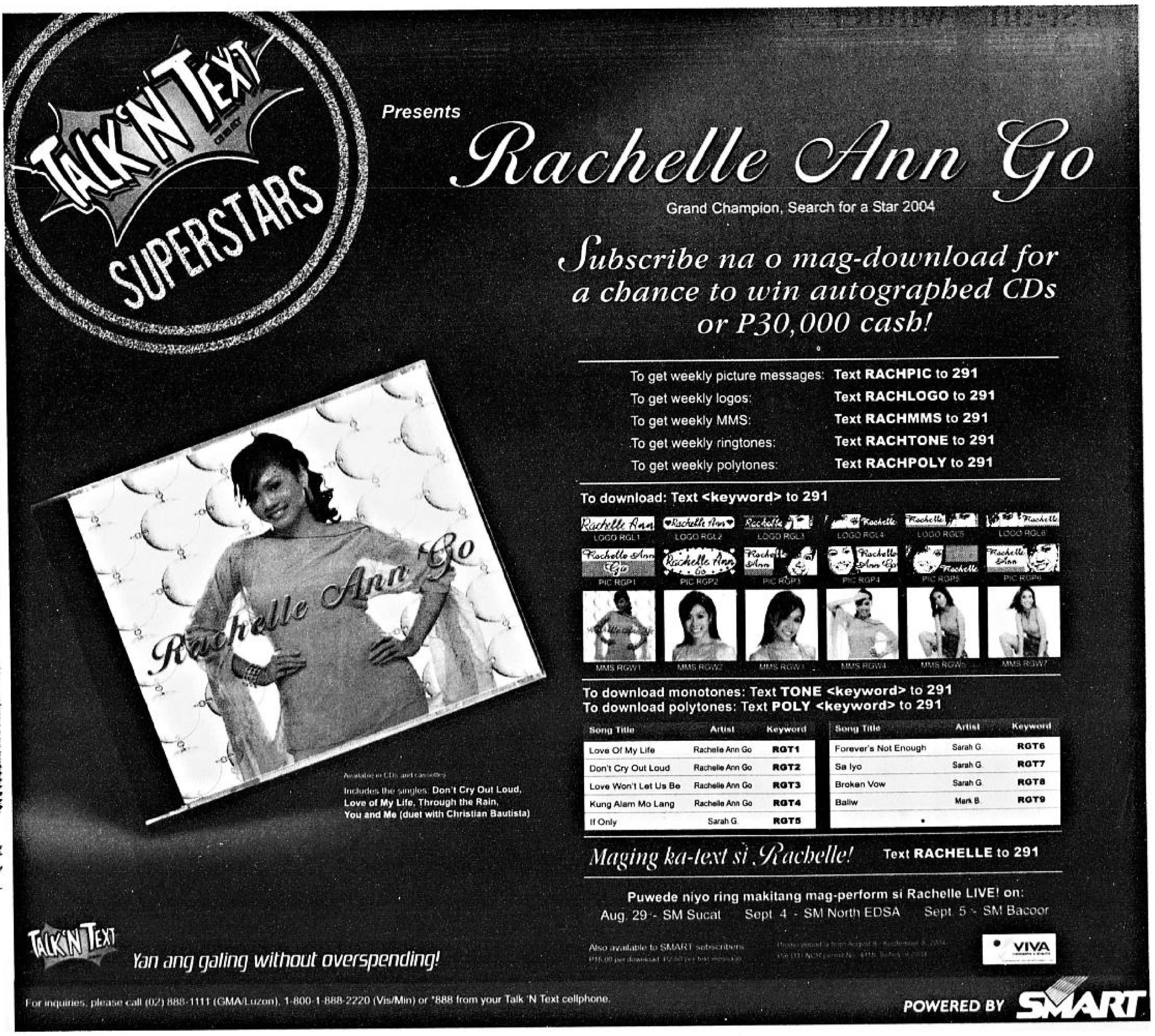
But since the league is in a transition period, teams are allowed to skirt the rule by adding another six months on the contracts of top players.

Thus, the longest contract the 6-foot-5 Belasco could get is for three-and-a-half years.

Belasco also said the food supplements he's taking have been approved by the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD).

"I've used GNC products last year during the peak of the league's drug-testing program and I never failed in the tests," said Belasco.

GNC vice president JV Borromeo strengthened Belasco's claim, explaining that the ingredients GNC uses on its products are natural, and with full approval from the BFAD.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Don't Cry Out Loud	Rachelle Ann Go	RGT2
Love Won't Let Us Be	Rachelle Ann Go	RGT3
Kung Alam Mo Lang	Rachelle Ann Go	RGT4
If Only	Sarah G.	RGT5

Song Title	Artist	Keyword
Forever's Not Enough	Sarah G.	RGT6
Sa Iyo	Sarah G.	RGT7
Broken Vow	Sarah G.	RGT8
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Dolphins, Altas enter NC semis

GAMES MONDAY (*Rizal Coliseum*)
11:30 a.m.—SSC vs San Beda (Jrs)
*2 p.m.—SSC vs San Beda (Srs)
*4 p.m.—Mapua vs JRU (Srs)
6 p.m.—Mapua vs JRU (Jrs)
*Live on Studio 23

By Jasmine W. Payo

A TRIPLE from Jason Castro in the last three seconds booked the Philippine Christian U Dolphins a Final Four slot.

Castro's only basket in the fourth quarter proved to be the most important as the Dolphins slipped past the defending champion Letran Knights, 80-77, in the 80th NCAA senior basketball tournament yesterday at the Rizal Coliseum.

Dolphins rookie Gabby Espinas shot 22 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for his fifth double-double performance in the last six games.

The University of Perpetual Help Altas also clinched a semifinal slot by routing the St. Benilde Blazers, 90-74.

PCU and Perpetual, interestingly the cellar-dwellers last season, now share top spot with 9-4 slates. Letran fell to third at 8-5.

Mark Andaya, who paced Letran with 17 points, tied the count with 13 seconds left before Castro unleashed his winning triple.

In junior play, the Greenies boosted their Final Four chances by crushing the Altalettes, 105-50.

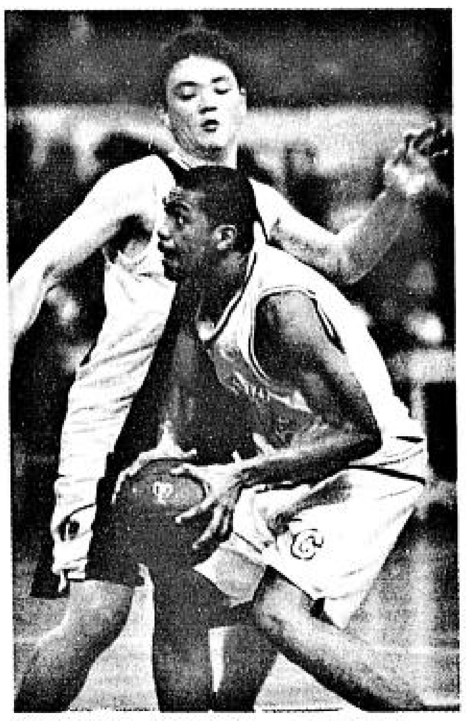
The scores:

Third game (Srs)

PCU 80—Espinas 22, Sanz 16, Garrido 12, Retaga 12, Castro 12, Solis 4, Cecilia 2.

LETRAN 77—Andaya 17, Rodriguez 15, Bautista 12, Alcaraz 10, Enrile 9, Aban 8, Aldave 4, Santos 1, Realista 1, Mondragon 0.

Quarters: 18-19, 34-37, 55-63, 80-77.



ROMY HOMILLADA

VLADIMIR Joe (right) of Perpetual Help fakes off Gilbert Louie Sanidad of CSB yesterday.

Tams eye Final 4 vs Maroons

GAMES TODAY
(*Philsports Arena*)
11:30 a.m.—NU vs UE (Jrs)
*2 p.m.—NU vs UE (Srs)
*4 p.m.—UP vs FEU (Srs)
*Live on Studio 23

DEFENDING champion Far Eastern guns for a Final Four slot when the Tamaraws meet the much-improved University of the Philippines Maroons today in the UAAP varsity basketball tournament at the Philsports Arena.

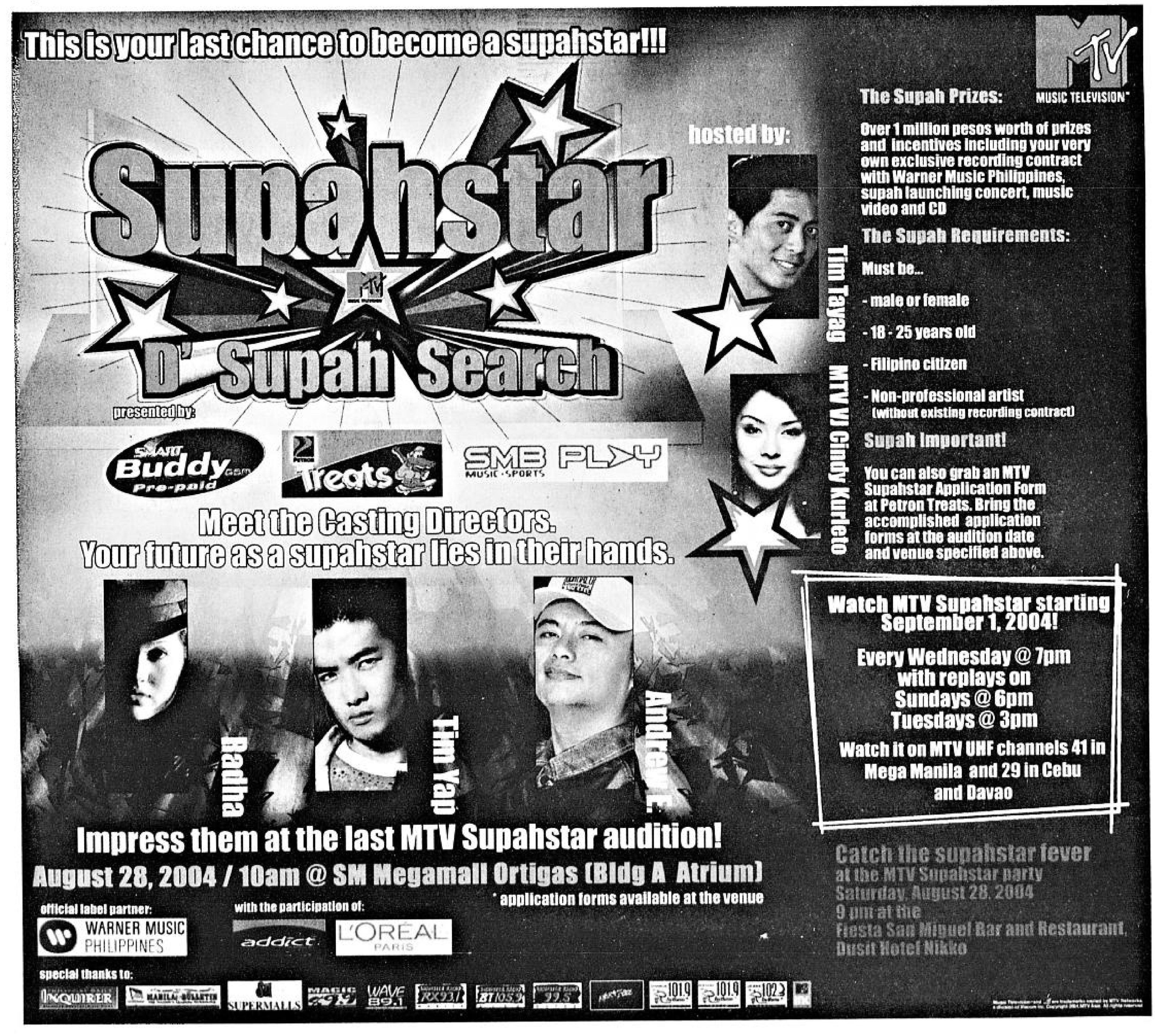
FEU and idle co-leader Ateneo are two games ahead of nearest rival La Salle and need just one more win to book a semifinal seat.

But the Tams will find the Maroons tougher this time when they collide at 4 p.m.

The University of the East Warriors try to hold on to fourth spot when they battle the National University Bulldogs at 2 p.m.

The Maroons, who last won four straight games in 1997, had a surprising second-round surge after dropping their first six matches.

The difference was the polished offense of UP starters Toti Almeda (15 points per game), Abby Santos (10.5 ppg) and Nestor David (10.5 ppg) in their last four games. *Jasmine W. Payo*



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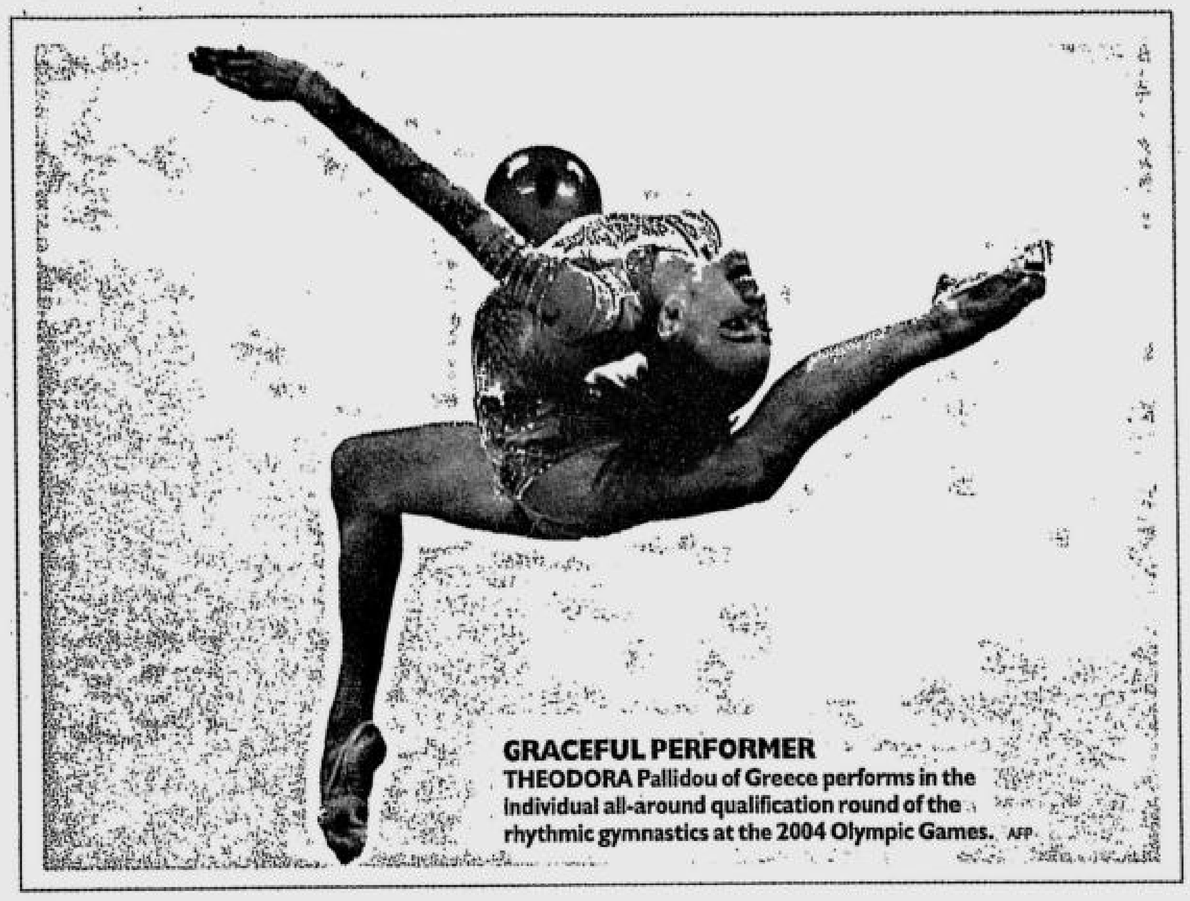

GRACEFUL PERFORMER
THEODORA Pallidou of Greece performs in the individual all-around qualification round of the rhythmic gymnastics at the 2004 Olympic Games. AFP

RP ice skaters rule Minnesota tourney

FILIPINOS copped the overall championship in the 2004 Ice Skating Institute of America's World Championships held recently at the Schwan's Super Rink in Blaine, Minneapolis, in Minnesota, USA.

The SM Philippine Ice Skating Team, which included 43 skaters from the SM Megamall and SM Southmall rinks, brought home 90 gold medals, 62 silvers and 26 bronzes. With a total of 776.5 points, they bested 88 teams from four countries: the United Arab Emirates, Thailand, Mexico and the United States of America, which fielded teams from 24 states.

The White Bear Lake Sports team of the US placed second with 686.3 points and the Plymouth Ice Center copped third with 647.8.

Completing the top 10 are Schwan Super Rink (4th), Bielenberg Sports Center (5th), Joliet Park District (6th), Minneapolis Augsburg (7th), Parade Ice Garden (8th), Cottage Grove Ice Arena (9th), and Grand Oaks Arena (10th).

SM First vice president engineer Ric Camaligan received the trophy for the Philippine team.

This was the first time since the ISIA was organized in 1959 that a team outside the US had emerged overall champion.

Cara Naomi Damian brought home 3 golds, 4 silvers and 3 bronzes, while Bien Bergonia and Dale Feliciano dazzled with 2-5-5 and 4-2-0 medals, respectively.

Other standout skaters included Celine Gabrielle Gabrieta with 3 golds, 2 silvers and a bronze; Sophia Choi (4-2-0); Jazz Ashley Tulda (3-2-0); Marc Camaligan (3-1-0); Arlene Carino (3-1-0); and Francesca Recasata (3-2-0). Danica Icanranom and Roxanne Puno took home 4 and 3 gold medals, respectively.

Pacquiao dumped; Barrera-Morales on

Salven L. Lagumbay

IT SEEMS no one among Mexico's top fighters is willing to step up and slug it out with Filipino champion Manny Pacquiao.

This developed after Top Rank, the outfit which promotes WBC/IBF super-featherweight champ Erik Morales, yesterday confirmed that the planned Morales-Marco Antonio Barrera rubber match has been scheduled on Nov. 27.

Although no venue has been finalized, Top Rank vice president Todd DuBoef, in an interview with Boxingtalk, said the fight will "obviously" take place either in Las Vegas or California, with the MGM Grand or Staples Center as most likely contenders as fight site.

"Yes we have an agreement for Erik Morales and Marco Antonio Barrera to fight on HBO pay-per-view on Nov. 27," DuBoef said.

Morales and Barrera have split their first two meetings.

Following DuBoef's confirmation, Pacquiao's promoter Murad Muhammad, in a separate interview, announced he and Rod Nazario have to go back to the drawing board and get the next best arrangement for the Filipino fighter.

Muhammad said he was surprised by the recent turn of events, saying he and Top Rank boss Bob Arum agreed in principle a few days ago that Pacquiao versus Morales was a "done deal."

"I'm not the type of person who gives my word on something and then pulls out because there's a little more money somewhere else," said Muhammad.

Cebu booters join national women's tilt

THE "BIG Four" of Visayan women's football—Cebu, Iloilo, Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental—will be represented when the PFF/SuperFerry National Women's Championship kicks off this Sunday at the Marikina Sports Center in Marikina City.

Opening ceremonies are at 8 a.m. with the first game to begin an hour after. The pairing of teams will be decided in a managers meeting at 1 p.m. today.

The Visayan lasses are expected to give top seeds Davao and National Capital Region (NCR) a tough fight for the coveted trophy in this week-long event.

NCR, the newly crowned champion in the under-19 women's category, will be led by National coach Hans Peter Smit and a team made up of nine La Salle and four University of the Philippines stars.

Laguna, initially considered a powerhouse in this category, will not be around.

Host of this year's national competition, organized by the Philippine Football Federation, is Marikina City. Co-organizer is the Marikina City Football Association (MCFA) of which Mayor Marides C Fernando is chairperson.

The 200 female athletes, 19-year-old-and-above, will be housed at the Marikina Hotel. The event is also supported by adidas, Red Ribbon Bakeshop, Petron, New Pagcor, Unicef and Aboitiz Express.

Drilon Cup set at San Lazaro

EMPIRE King and archrival Cover Girl will take the spotlight in the P1-million Philracom-sponsored "Senate President Franklin M. Drilon Cup: The 26th edition of the "1867 Founders' Cup" tomorrow at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

Five other runners are entered in the 1,750-meter race but Empire King and Cover Girl, winner of the third and first leg, respectively, of this year's Triple Crown, are expected to dominate the event offering a top prize of P600,000 and a replica of the Founders' Cup for the owner of the winning horse.

Four other cup races are lined up for tomorrow's program, including the "Burlington Cup" sponsored by Burlington Inc.; F.R. Sevilla Cup sponsored by FR Sevilla Construction Corp., No Fear Cup sponsored by No Fear and the Sta. Lucia Realty Cup sponsored by Sta. Lucia Realty and Dev't. Corp., each carrying a guaranteed prize of P200,000 for the first placers.

Senate President Franklin M. Drilon will award the top prize and the replica of the Founders' Cup. Also expected to grace the affair are Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi, Vice Gov. John Vic Remulla, Rep. Gilbert Remulla, Rep. Crispin Remulla, Carmona Mayor Dahlia A. Loyola and MJCI executive vice president and COO lawyer Alfonso G. Reyno III.

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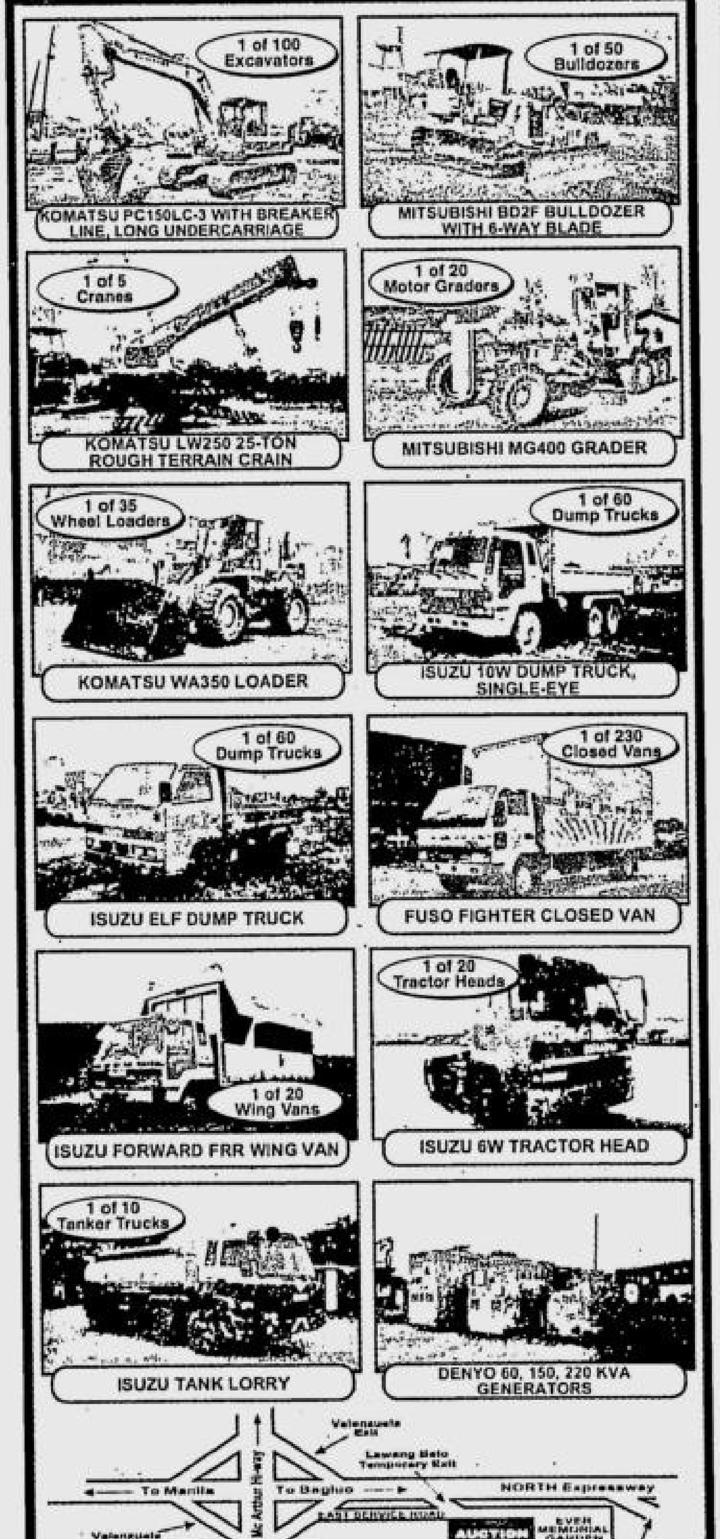
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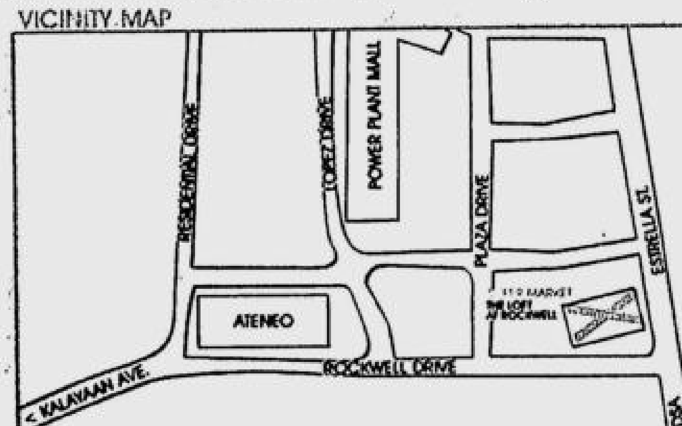
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NY-born hurdler gives D. Republic historic gold

ATHENS, Greece—He was born in New York and raised in Southern California. But Felix Sanchez always felt the Dominican Republic in his heart.

His parents were born there. A Dominican flag always hung in his home. And he knew competing for the tiny Caribbean nation would mean more to him, his family and the people there than if he was just another hurdler for the United States.

So Sanchez decided to represent the Dominican Republic in 1999. On Thursday, he gave the country its first Olympic gold medal with his victory in the 400-meter hurdles, winning in 47.63 seconds to keep his three-year unbeaten streak alive.

After Sanchez crossed the line, he threw his head back with a look of relief then clasped his hands together. Someone gave Sanchez a Dominican flag and an olive wreath as he walked along the side of the track, waving to fans.

"It's a feeling of pride every time I step on the track, knowing I have a lot of Dominicans following me," said Sanchez, who still lives and trains in California. "Now hopefully I can push the movement in athletics."

The impoverished country of 8.8 million people first participated in the Olympics in the 1964 Tokyo Games. Its only other medal came in 1984, when boxer Pedro Julio Nolasco won bronze in Los Angeles.

On Thursday, joyous Dominicans ran into the streets in Santo Domingo, honked car horns and waved flags to celebrate the victory.

President Leonel Fernandez and other government officials watched the race on a large-screen television at the National Palace. The president led a toast afterward, which was broadcast on Dominican television.

"I want to go back (to the Dominican Republic) and share this medal with them," Sanchez said. "Hopefully this won't be the only medal we get."

Sanchez does not regret his decision to compete for the Dominican Republic, which came after he finished sixth at the 1999 US championships. Each time he goes back to visit, fans mob him and his star power grows.

"I'm content and happy with what I achieved for the Dominican Republic," he said. *AP*

REPUBLICA DOMINICANA
1539

HE could have soared high for the US track team, but Felix Sanchez decided to spread his wings for the Dominican Republic. AFP

US completes track sweep

ATHENS—United States athletes dominated Olympic athletics events Thursday night, sweeping the men's 200, winning gold in the men's long jump and impressing in the women's 4x100 relay heats.

Shawn Crawford, Bernard Williams and Justin Gatlin finished 1-2-3 in the 200. Dwight Phillips and John Moffitt went 1-2 in the long jump. Marion Jones and her relay cruised into the finals.

And Felix Sanchez, whose 400-meter hurdles win Thursday gave the Dominican Republic its first Olympic gold medal, was born in New York, raised in San Diego and has dual citizenship.

Everyone behaved Friday night—except the Greek fans who packed the Olympic Stadium, chanting the name of their disgraced sprinter, Kostas Kenteris. The Greeks had paid big money to watch Kenteris defend his 200 gold medal, but he withdrew from the Olympics in a doping scandal.

The turmoil delayed the start of the 200 for four minutes. Four-time Olympic silver medalist Frank Fredericks, who finished fourth in the race, held his finger to his lips, then clasped his hands together, begging for quiet.

The Americans weren't upset.

"We're here in the birthplace of the Olympics, the defending Olympic champion is from Greece, and there were certain situations that didn't allow him to compete," Crawford said. "I'm sure they were disappointed. I can understand their feelings. I know they're disappointed and angry."

Crawford took the lead off the turn and burst down the home stretch to finish in 19.79 seconds, the fastest time in four years and a personal best. Bernard Williams tied his personal best of 20.01 seconds for silver. Justin Gatlin, the 100 champion, won bronze in 20.03.

It was the sixth time the United States has taken all three 200 medals—the last sweep was led by Carl Lewis in 1984.

And it gave the United States a total of 18 track and field medals, just two behind the total from Sydney, with two nights of competition remaining. Russia is next with nine medals.

Phillips, probably the biggest favorite to win a gold of all the Americans, won on his first jump, 8.59 meters. Moffitt was second with a personal-best 8.47. Spain's Joan Lino Martinez got the bronze at 8.32, also a personal best. *AP*

MEMBERS of Russia's synchronized swimming team perform their technical routine in the Olympic Aquatic Center. AP

Sprint winner once lost to zebra

ATHENS—Shawn Crawford has gone from a circus act to Olympic 200 meters champion in the space of a year and a half.

When Crawford shut out the boos of the Greek crowd to run a superb bend and sprint over the line of his 200-meter race in 19.79 seconds on Thursday, he led home the first clean sweep of the medals for the United States in the event since 1984.

Only eight men in history have run faster than Crawford's time.

It might even have been enough to beat the zebra which pipped him to finishing line in a made-for-TV race in January 2003.

The "Man vs Beast" show in which he actually beat a giraffe in a race before losing to the zebra seemed to encapsulate the career of an athlete who was not quite making it.

A coaching switch to Trevor Graham, the former Jamaican international sprinter who formerly trained Marion Jones, transformed his career.

Out went the mad stunts, as the new, mature Crawford acknowledged after his victory.

"I have learned that the best way to to achieve attention is to run your best, not wearing masks and sunglasses in races—things I have been known to do," he said immediately after his victory.

Crawford once wore a mask in a race as a joke but it slipped over his face and he veered out of his lane and was disqualified.

And would he beat the zebra now?

"Of course. Hey, he ran 9.94 and I ran 9.89 the other day. I mean, come on..." *AFP*

Bring medals, leave wreaths behind

WELLINGTON—New Zealand's medal-winning Olympic stars should just take a picture of their wreaths and leave them in Greece because they will not be allowed into the country, a government spokeswoman said Friday.

Each medal winner at the Athens Games has received wreaths made of olive branches, chrysanthemums and roses.

Agriculture Minister Jim Sutton's spokeswoman said biosecurity was vitally important for New Zealand and the rules would not be bent.

"If they want to hold on to their memories they will have to take a picture," the spokeswoman said.

Ministry of Agriculture biosecurity official Veronica Herrera said the wreaths would not get past border control.

A potted oak that New Zealand runner Jack Lovelock was given by Adolf Hitler after winning the 1500m in the 1936 Berlin Olympics was brought home and planted at the Timaru Boys High School, south of here, where the tree still stands. *AFP*

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ATHENS SUMMER OLYMPICS MEDAL TALLY

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
United States	28	31	24	83
China	25	17	12	54
Australia	16	11	16	43
Russia	15	21	24	60
Japan	15	9	10	34
Germany	12	13	14	39
France	10	7	10	27
Italy	9	7	8	24
Romania	8	5	4	17
Ukraine	8	4	7	19
Korea	7	10	5	22
Great Britain	7	8	10	25
Greece	6	4	3	13
Hungary	5	7	3	15
Netherlands	4	8	8	20
Sweden	4	1	2	7
Spain	3	9	5	17
Poland	3	2	4	9
New Zealand	3	2	0	5
Turkey	3	1	2	6
Norway	3	0	1	4
Cuba	2	4	7	13
Canada	2	4	2	8
Belarus	2	3	7	12
Brazil	2	2	2	6
Slovakia	2	2	2	6
Georgia	2	2	0	4
Bulgaria	2	1	7	10
Chinese Taipei	2	1	1	4
Ethiopia	2	1	1	4
Thailand	2	0	3	5
Chile	2	0	1	3

Football star Hamm ends career in style

ATHENS—American superstar Mia Hamm was given the perfect send-off as the United States rode their luck to beat Brazil in extra-time and win the Olympic women's football gold medal for the second time in eight years.

A 2-1 victory that did not come without a huge slice of fortune provided a fitting farewell for the 32-year-old striker, who is hanging up her boots after 17 years on the international stage.

After receiving her medal, Hamm's eyes welled up with tears as she and her teammates blared out the national anthem before milking the applause of the delirious American fans draped in a US flag.

"I couldn't have picked a better way to go out," beamed Hamm, a key figure in the 1991 World Cup triumph and in the US team's gold medal victory in the inaugural Olympic women's final at the Atlanta Games in 1996.

"I feel honored to be part of this group and I feel honored to represent this country.

"It's been a wonderful journey that has let me experience a whole variety of emotions.

"It has taught me a lot about life and about the value of friendship."

In truth, Hamm's swansong on Thursday was not her best performance, but it mattered not as Abby Wambach's dramatic extra time header silenced the samba stars for whom striker Cristiane was outstanding.

Hamm, women's football's most recognizable star, has scored more than 150 goals in over 250 appearances. *AFP*

KO'd Central African fighter hospitalized

ATHENS—Central African Republic taekwondo fighter Betrand Gbongou Liango was taken to a hospital after he was knocked out in an Olympic under-68kg first-round match here Friday.

Liango, 22, was taken to a hospital in the port of Pireas near the taekowndo venue and his condition was not immediately made known. He was seen to be breathing but appeared to be unconscious as he was carried away on a stretcher.

Liango, who had no major international success to date, fell forward on to the mat when he was attacked with a left high kick to the head by world bronze medalist Tuncay Caliskan of Austria.

The knockout came as Liango led, 4-1, on points at 1:45 in the final third round.

He was taken away from the mat by medical staff after lying flat on his back for about 10 minutes while he was given mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. *AFP*

Politics mutes Taiwan's celebration

ATHENS—Taiwan won its first-ever Olympic gold medals Thursday and was honored with a medal ceremony featuring a national anthem and flag that is not its own.

The medals came in quick succession on the first day of the taekwondo competition.

Chen Shih Hsin won the historic first gold in the women's 49-kilogram category, and then heavily favored Chu Mu Yen followed suit about 20 minutes later in the men's 58-kg class.

Several hundred Taiwanese fans in attendance went wild after the victories were clinched, but the celebration turned more muted when the medal ceremony began.

As part of its sovereignty dispute with China, Taiwan is not permitted to use its actual flag and anthem in international competitions. Instead, Chen and Chu had to watch as a more generic Taiwanese Olympic flag, featuring the Olympic rings, was raised to the tune of the "Song of the national flag."

Chen cried throughout the medal ceremony, while Chu was more composed.

Taiwan and China have been locked in a sovereignty dispute for five decades. Beijing says the island belongs to Chinese territory and must accept Communist rule or face war. But the Taiwanese have refused to join the mainland and have been drifting closer to seeking a permanent break.

As a concession to China, Taiwan participates at the Olympics under the name of "Chinese-Taipei" instead of its official name of the Republic of China.

Chu began his winner's press conference by declaring in English: "I am from Taiwan." *AP*

CHINA'S all-around squad struts its stuff in the preliminaries of the rhythmic gymnastics competition. AFP

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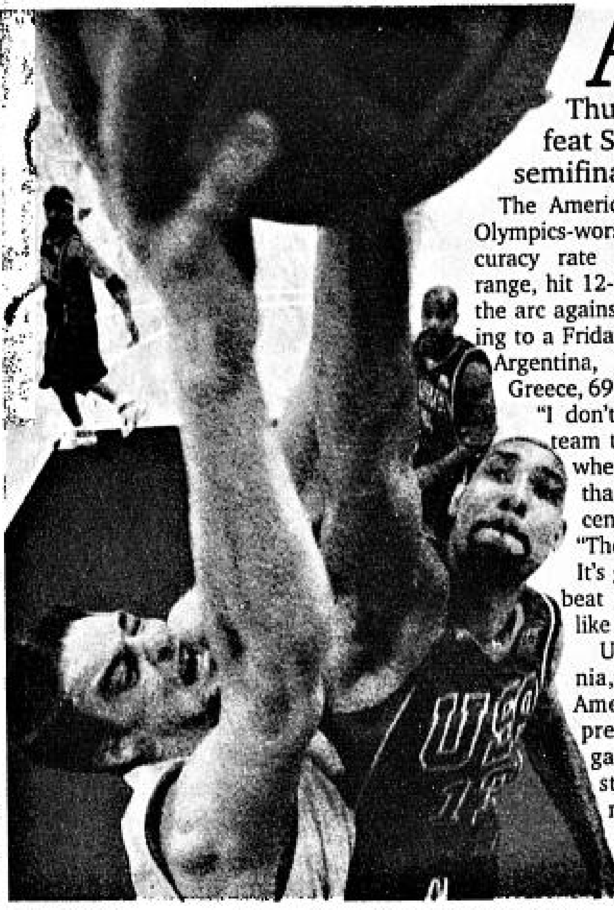
US finally plays like contenders

Golden rematch vs Lithuania looms



UNITED States center-forward Tim Duncan blocks Spain's Pau Gasol in their quarterfinal match. AP

ATHENS—United States National Basketball Association stars finally played like gold medal contenders here Thursday, shaking off a shooting slump to defeat Spain, 102-94, and advance to the Olympic semifinals.

The Americans, who had an Olympics-worst 23.6 percent accuracy rate from the 3-point range, hit 12-of-22 from beyond the arc against Spain in advancing to a Friday semifinal against Argentina, which outlasted Greece, 69-64.

"I don't think there's any team that can beat them when they shoot like that," Spanish NBA center Pau Gasol said. "They are motivated. It's going to be hard to beat them if they play like that."

Undefeated Lithuania, which beat the Americans, 94-90, in a preliminary round game, advanced a step closer to a rematch for gold by eliminating China, 95-75. Their semifinal foe will be Italy, which defeated Puerto Rico 83-70.

Arvydas Macijauskas scored 32 points to spark Lithuania, bronze medalists the past three Olympics. The results put Lithuania and the US closer to a rematch of their tight game in Sydney four years ago.

The Lithuanians came within a 3-point miss at the buzzer of upsetting the US team in a 2000 Games semifinal.

Revenge would be sweet indeed if Lithuania could dethrone the Americans.

"In Sydney we lost to the United States in a very close match," Lithuanian forward Mindaugas Zukauskas said. "We've already beaten them once here but it will be double revenge if we get to beat them in the finals."

"We don't have any relief. The relief comes in two games if we go out and win a gold medal," said Stephon Marbury, the hero against a previously unbeaten Spain squad after firing 31 points. *AFP*

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Numbers line up well for Schumi

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium—Michael Schumacher hates statistics, but he likes how the numbers line up for Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix.

This will be Ferrari's 700th race, a win would be Schumacher's seventh on the circuit, and the drivers' title would be his seventh.

"Sounds like good numbers again," Schumacher said, sporting a new short, spiky haircut. "Usually I've been pretty lucky when good numbers come together, so I hope I'm lucky again."

As he's done all season, look for Schumacher to continue demoralizing the opposition.

The 35-year-old German has won a record-setting 12 of 13 races this season. A victory isn't even required on Sunday on the hilly circuit at Spa. All he needs is to finish two points ahead of Ferrari teammate Rubens Barrichello to add the drivers' title to the constructors' championship Ferrari secured two weeks ago in Budapest.

"It's not a secret I am pretty close to winning the championship," Schumacher said. "So I can be rather relaxed and do what I like to do most, which is win races."

Set deep in the rolling pine forests of the Ardennes, Spa is Schumacher's favorite circuit. He made his F1 debut here for Jordan in 1991, finishing seventh to winner Ayrton Senna. *AP*

Kart leader tries to pull further away

ROSARIO, Batangas—Front-running Allan Uy of Birel-Fila and Matteo Guidicelli of the Cebu Racing Group hope to fortify their title bids when the 2004 Shell-PCSO Superkarting Series stages its fifth leg tomorrow at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

With his amazing triumph at the Enchanted Kingdom, Uy now enjoys a huge margin in the premiere Open class with 229 points in this series sponsored by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office through Hon. Rosario Uriarte, Bridgestone, Aviva Insurance, Eastway Motorcycle Racing and Denso Iridium Power.

Expected to challenge Uy are Guidicelli, Indy Villalon and Marlon Stockinger of Birel-Fila and defending champion Michelle Bumgarner of M&M Racing.

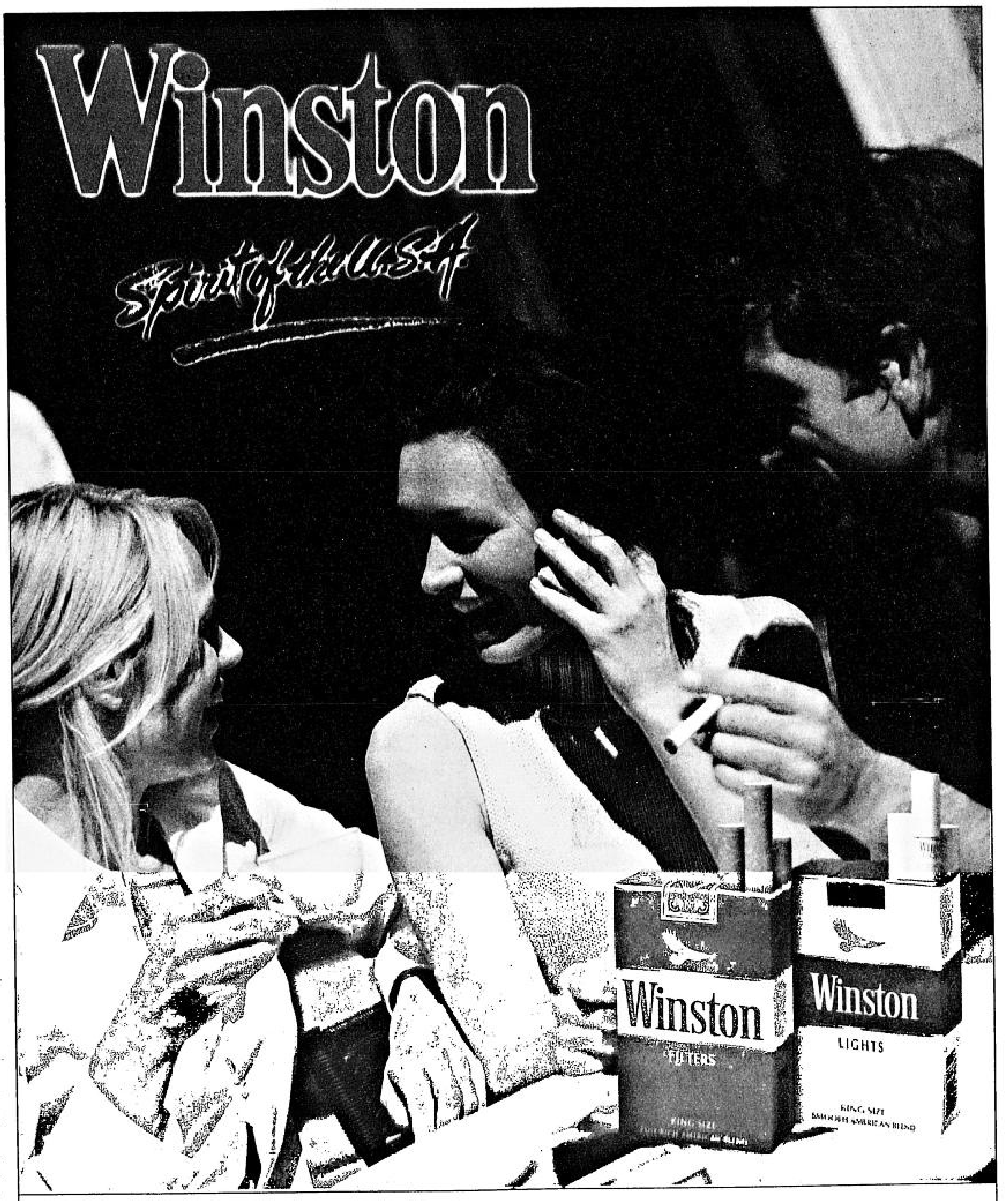
Guidicelli, though finishing only fifth in the last race, remained second overall with 154 points while Villalon is third with 142.

Stockinger and Bumgarner are fourth and fifth with 120 and 106 points respectively.

Guidicelli also eyes a second crown in the Rotax Juniors Max where he expects rough sailing against Stockinger and Mark Bumgarner of M&M Racing.

Despite placing only third at the Enchanted Kingdom, Stockinger moved up to second with 208 points while Bumgarner is third overall with 176.

Young kids likewise show their stuff in the TRS-PIKA Kids Karting with Roman Academia trying to preserve his hold of the solo lead.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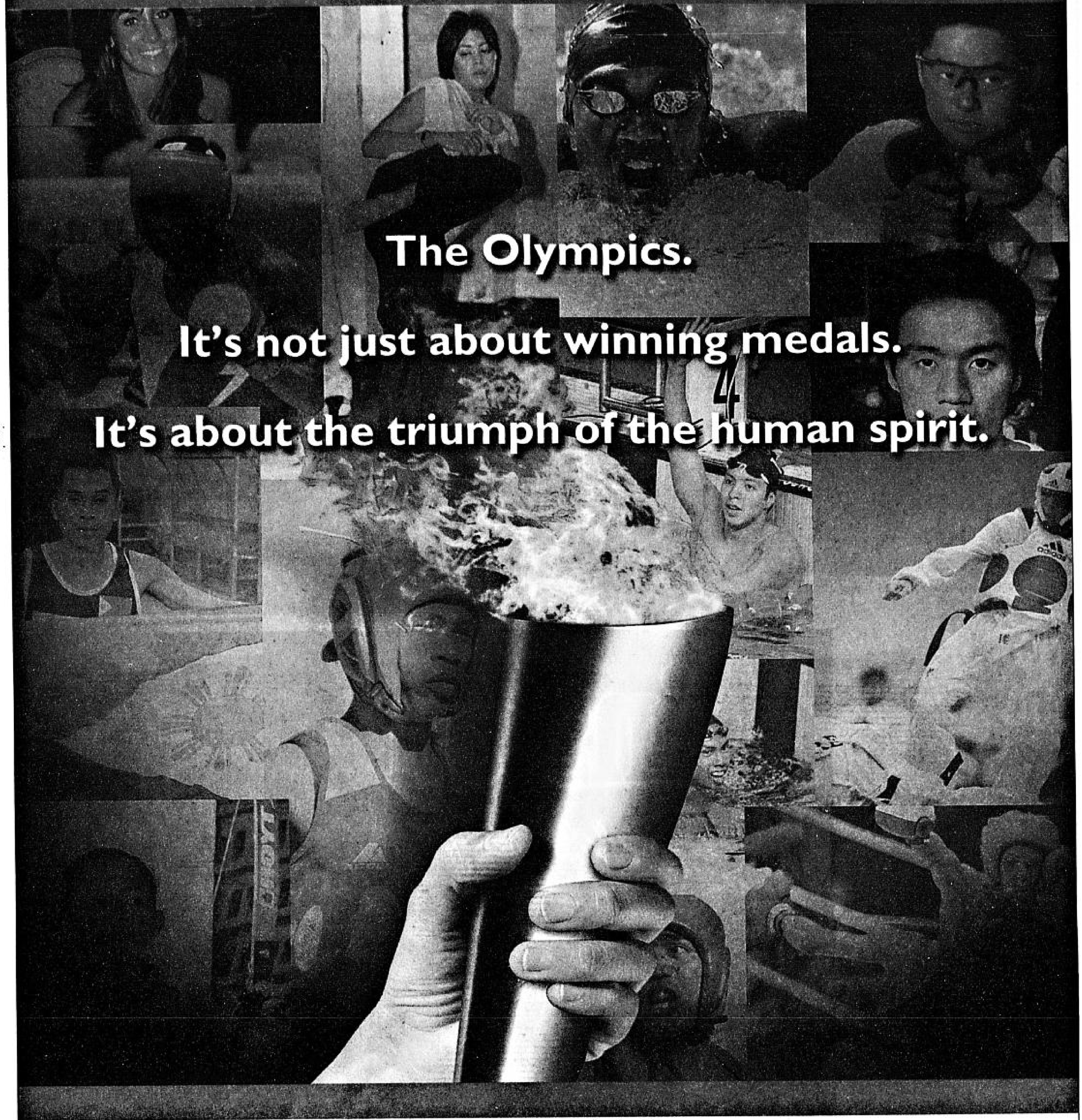

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THE WORLD'S GREATEST	R. KELLY	OMT2
HOPE	SHAGGY	OMT3
DON'T GIVE UP	CHICANE	OMT4
WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS	QUEEN	OMT5
MY HEART WILL GO ON	CELINE DION	OMT6

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GOLD & GLORY in GREECE
OL4

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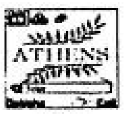
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August inflation seen surging to 6-6.6%

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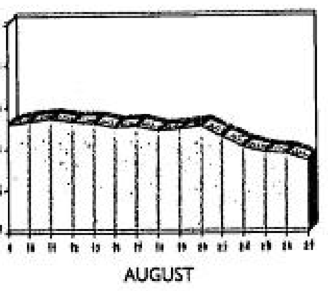

P 56.15 = $1
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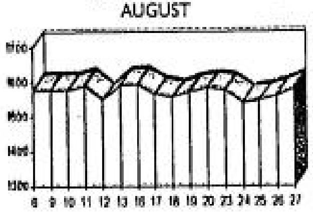
¥ 109.44 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 27, 2004

GOLD: $407.50-408.00
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 27, 2004

STOCK MARKET

Shares close higher on bargain hunting



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices closed 1.33 percent higher yesterday on extended bargain-hunting following sharp falls early this week, dealers said.

They said the market's slide, prompted by President Macapagal-Arroyo's comments that the country was in the midst of a crisis pushed prices to levels deemed oversold, they said.

Softer crude oil prices also boosted buying sentiment.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 20.71 points to 1,582.04, its intra-day high, off a low of 1,561.33.

Volume fell to 778.59 million shares worth P619.55 million compared to 946.07 million shares worth P1.01 billion traded on Thursday.

AFP

By Doris C. Dumlao

CONSUMER prices were expected to have risen by 6-6.6 percent in August from a year ago as global oil prices surged to record highs, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

BSP Officer-in-Charge Amando Tetangco Jr., who earlier admitted that the 4-5 percent average inflation target range for this year was no longer attainable, said the skyrocketing oil prices continued to push consumer prices up.

The BSP's projection is based on the 1994 consumer price index. The National Statistics Office has updated its CPI report using a 2000 index.

In July, the annual inflation rate, which measures the movement in prices of basic goods and services, stood at 6.1 percent.

So far, the average inflation rate of 4.3 percent for the first seven months of the year based on the 1994 index remained within the government's 4-5 percent target range. But the BSP expects the rates to rise further in the next few months given the continued uptrend in oil prices.

Delivery of crude oil for the month of October based on the New York Futures Exchange remained at about $43 a barrel.

Based on the BSP's simulations, inflation rate in the Philippines this year could average at 5.19-5.51 percent, overshooting the government's targets.

But under its inflation-targeting approach to monetary management, the BSP has an "escape clause" if the factors behind the overshooting of its targets were beyond the influence of monetary policy. Among these are: volatility in prices of agricultural products; natural calamities or any event that affects a major part of the economy; volatility in prices of oil product, and changes in government administration or policy measures that directly affect prices.

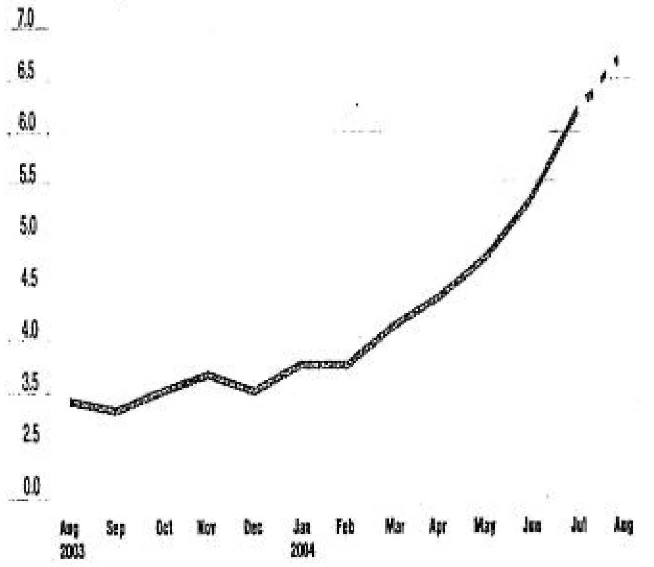
The BSP, for its part, has been resisting pressures to tighten its grip on money supply, knowing the existing pressures were driven by supply-side factors and could not be influenced by monetary policy.

During its monthly interest rate policy setting last Thursday, the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board maintained its overnight borrowing and lending rates at 6.75 percent and 9 percent, respectively. These were the same levels for the past 14 months.

The measures being pushed by the BSP to ease the spiralling inflation involved government intervention to beef up supply of key commodities:

- finalization of the implementing guidelines of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act, which extended the duty-free importation of farm and fishery inputs and equipment;
- setting up of food lanes and truck routes;
- intensification of the monitoring of commodity prices, and
- exploration of alternative packaging technologies.

INFLATION RATES
August 2003 to August 2004



Customs seeks stiff penalties on smuggling

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Customs is moving to impose heavier penalties on smuggling to start off its revitalized efforts to curb the illegal activity, which has resulted in huge revenue losses for the government and legitimate businesses.

According to Customs Deputy Commissioner Gil Valera, the bureau has been asking legislators to amend the Tariff and Customs Code so that the penalty for smugglers would be raised from the current six- to 10-year imprisonment, to a range of 15 to 20 years.

"We want to raise the level of consciousness against smuggling. That is why we want anti-smuggling efforts to be decentralized by asking our district collectors to file their own criminal charges against smugglers," Valera told reporters.

Valera estimated that the government was losing P10 billion in duties a year due to the entry of smuggled items into the country. Smuggling has also been cited by legitimate businesses as a major problem hampering their growth, and even causing the closure of some, because of the unfair competition it brings.

Valera said the BOC has been holding discussions with industry groups, such as the Fair Trade Alliance, on intensifying the government's anti-smuggling program. The FTA has proposed that smuggling be considered a heinous crime to reduce cases of the illegal activity.

As an offshoot of the discussions, the BOC will ask P20 million from the Office of the President to fund anti-smuggling efforts like prosecution of suspected smugglers.

PLDT readies alliances with regional telcos

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. yesterday said it would develop strategic alliances with foreign carriers to grow its business beyond the local market.

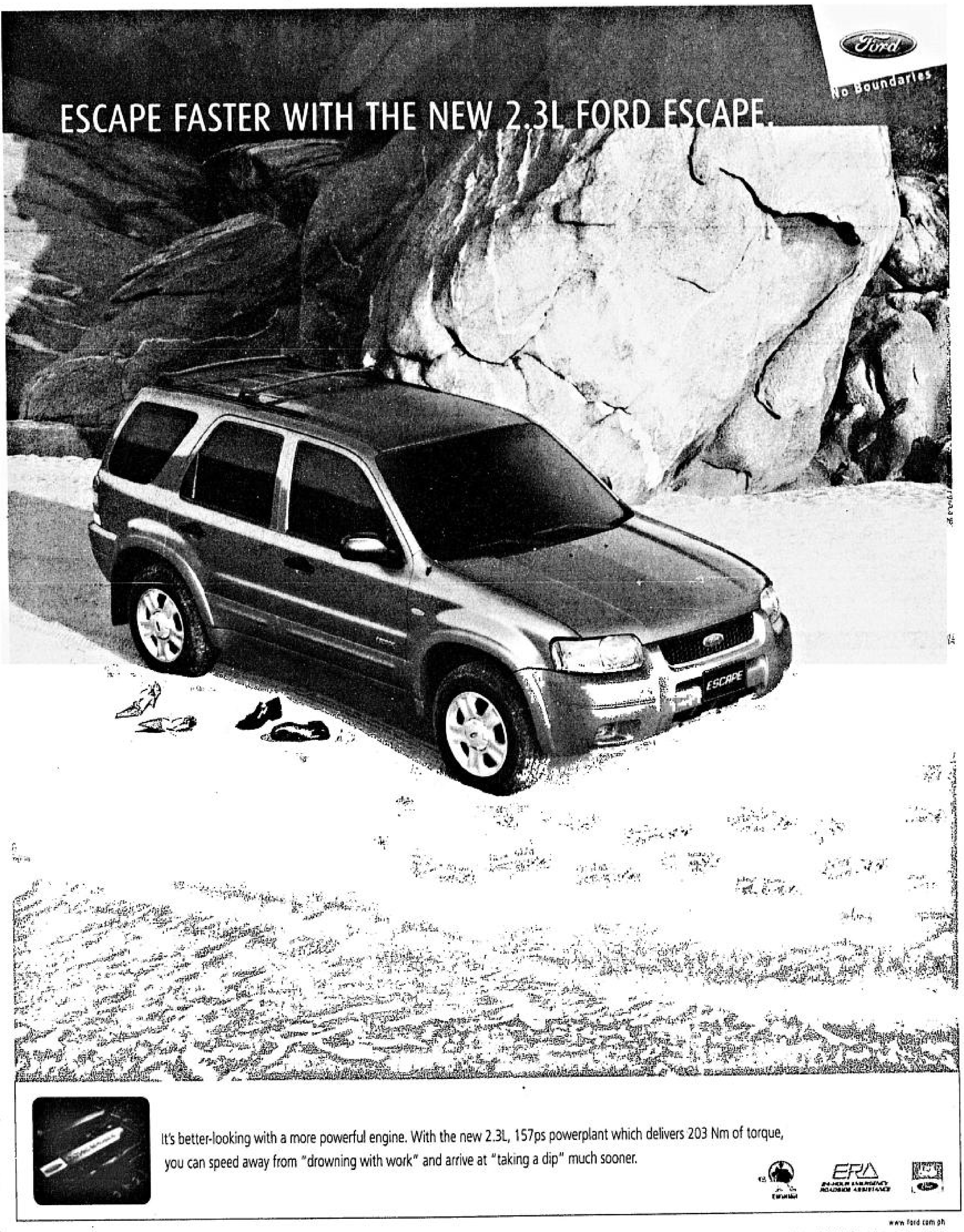
To start off the regional alliances, Smart Communications Inc., the cash-rich subsidiary of PLDT, would launch tomorrow in Hong Kong a service called 1528 Smart in partnership with Hong Kong mobile carrier HK CSL.

The telecom giant said it would offer similar products in Europe, the United States and other areas where there are big Filipino communities. There are about 8 million Filipinos working abroad.

Smart 1528 will give subscribers access to cheaper text messaging, voice call rates and other innovative products of Smart.

"Our mandate is to combine the strength of PLDT and Smart and explore all possibilities whether it is in the Philippines or overseas. With the inherent strengths, we can create a menu of products and services other telcos will have a hard time copying," said PLDT and Smart chair Manuel Pangilinan.

PLDT said it would tap 180,000 overseas Filipinos working in Hong Kong, of whom about 87 percent or more than 150,000 own mobile phones. Smart said it hoped to capture a big share of the market with its new 1528 Smart product.



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Aboitiz group plans to bid for Masinloc power plant

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE ABOITIZ Group and a Japanese partner are planning to bid for the government's 600-megawatt coal-fired power plant in Masinloc, Zambales.

Sources close to the Aboitizes said the group might initially team up with J-Power, a state-owned Japanese wholesale utility firm.

The Aboitizes are, however, concerned that Masinloc has no transition supply contract, which will allow it to sell power to utilities until the establishment of a spot market. At present, the Masinloc plant sells only to National Power Corp.

Without a transition supply contract, it will be difficult to determine the value of the plant, industry sources said.

"It's all under review. There is a concern but it doesn't mean they (Aboitizes) are backing out," a source said.

Eight firms have expressed strong interest in acquiring the Masinloc plant, one of the newer Napocor plants that the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (Psalm) was tasked to sell.

Psalm has scheduled the Masinloc plant's bidding for October, with the pre-bidding conference to be held on Sept. 1. Interested bidders have until Oct. 27 to submit their bids.

Should the sale of Masinloc push through, it will be the first big-ticket Napocor asset to be sold by PSALM.

The Masinloc power plant, which stands on a 147-hectare site, was built for $530 million in 1998. It consists of two generation units with a capacity of 300 MW each.

Of the eight interested investors in Masinloc, Energy officials earlier said four were willing to acquire the plant even without a transitional supply contract. A TSC assures an investor of ready takers for the power that will be generated by the plant. Without this, the facility will likely become a merchant plant, or one without a guaranteed customer.

The Aboitiz Group has set its sights on some of the state-run Napocor assets.

Luzon Hydro Corp., a partnership between Aboitiz Equity Ventures and Australia's Pacific Hydro Ltd., will be investing $18 million to $20 million in the 70-megawatt (MW) Bakun AC Hydroelectric Power Project in Ilocos Sur.

The Aboitizes, through Hydro Electric Development Corp. (Hedcor), recently won the auction for the 3.5-MW Talomo mini-hydroelectric plant in Davao.

The Aboitiz family has interests in transportation, power generation and distribution, banking and food.

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DOMINGO, Konde Luciano P.	Computer Engineering	Ateneo de Manila University
EMPLEO, Enrico Carlo C.	BS Mechanical Engineering	University of the Philippines – Diliman
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LACSON, Carlos Miguel M.	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	Ateneo de Manila University
PUNSALAN, Mary Ann A.	BS Management Economics	Ateneo de Manila University
REYES, Jenina Marie D.	BS Statistics	De La Salle University
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YAP, David B.	BS Statistics	University of the Philippines – Diliman

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CARANDANG, Phrances Xharmagne C.	BS Information Technology	St. Louis University
CARANGUIAN, Luther Paul	DR. BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	University of the Philippines – Diliman
GARRIDO, Jerwin Demy E.	AB Mass Communications	University of the Philippines – Diliman
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UMALI, Paolo Dominict E.	BS Applied Mathematics	University of the Philippines – Los Baños

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DE LUMEN, Christine Alida A.	Management Info. Systens	Ateneo de Naga
ESTRADA, Erik John C.	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	University of the Philippines – Diliman
JAIM, Mark Erben A.	BS Electrical Engineering	University of the Philippines – Los Baños
JOVEN, Rafael Francisco LL.	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	Ateneo de Naga

WESTERN VISAYAS (3 SLOTS)

NAME	COURSE	SCHOOL
ANTONIO, Marianne T.	BS Accountancy	University of the Philippines – Iloilo
BAYAG, Ed Angelo C.	BS Applied Mathematics	University of the Philippines – Visayas
ESCLETO, Ceasar Ean S.	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	Mapua

EASTERN VISAYAS (4 SLOTS)

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PALGAN, Mae Emmeline	AB Mass Communications	University of the Philippines – Diliman
PO, Nenette Marie M.	BS Statistics	University of the Philippines – Visayas
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DATUKON, Norman Farrish A.	BS Accountancy	Ateneo de Davao
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LIPAE, Alexander Ian Y.	BS Civil Engineering	University of the Philippines – Los Baños

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MONARCA, Jeosid Dave L.	BS Accountancy	Xavier University
ROMUALDO, Kate Russel S.	BS Elec. & Comm. Engineering	Mindanao Polytechnic State College

ZAMBOANGA (2 SLOTS)

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JARON, Joe Darryl L.	BS Accountancy	Ateneo de Zamboanga

(PDI - August 1, 2, 7-9, 14-18, 21-23 & 28-30, 2004)

MWC profit seen to hit ₱1B

MANILA Water Co., a subsidiary of Ayala Corp., said it was expecting its profit to exceed the P1-billion mark this year as operational efficiency continued to improve, resulting in higher water sales.

MWC handles the east Metro Manila concession of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS).

The optimistic projection was based on MWC's first half performance, highlighted by a net income of P650 million. Total revenue during the semester reached P2 billion, a 12-percent increase from year-ago level.

Capital investments are expected to reach P3 billion by the end of the year, with P1.2 billion already spent on water and wastewater projects. For the second semester, the company will focus on the rehabilitation of its network to improve service coverage and reduce system losses.

The water company registered a record billed volume of 803 million liters per day in June while expanding coverage to over 537 thousand households all over its service area.

MWC also reported a 4 percentage improvement in its nonrevenue water (NRW) from the same period last year. Last June's NRW level represents a 16-percentage-point improvement from the level when it took over the concession in 1997. This improvement was attributed to effective supply management combined with massive pipe and meter replacement projects. To date, the company recovers up to 256 million liters per day, out of the water volume that was initially lost due to network inefficiencies.

In the meantime, the company's aggressive wastewater disposal projects have benefited more than 9,000 customers during the first half of 2004.

Through a funding from the World Bank, MWC is constructing 27 independent sewer treatment plants in 2004, of which, 12 are already completed and operational. *Christine A. Gaylican*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 27, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17	17	16.75	17	52,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41	41.5	41	41.5	203,500
China Banking Corp.	535	535	535	535	1,020
Citystate Savings Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	600
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41	41	41	41	2,000
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.44	0.46	0.44	0.45	130,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	25.5	25.5	25	25.5	229,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	37,000
Security Bank Corp.	21.75	21.75	21.75	21.75	11,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.75	23.75	23.75	23.75	10,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2260	2265	2260	2265	390
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.46	1.34	1.44	3,713,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	106	106	104	104	900
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1525	1535	1525	1535	720
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20.25	20.25	20	20	1,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	1,610,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	860	870	860	870	87,740
Ipeople Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	50,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.6	2.65	2.55	2.6	10,659,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1245	1260	1245	1260	164,350
Ivantage Corp.	0.69	0.71	0.69	0.7	6,330,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	18,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.75	14.75	14.5	14.75	25,200
Manila Electric Co. B	22.5	22.5	22	22.25	1,127,100
Petron Corp.	2.6	2.7	2.55	2.7	3,413,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.1	2.12	2.08	2.12	204,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	165,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.28	176,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	2.24	2.24	2.24	2.24	20,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	4.15	4.35	4.15	4.25	2,982,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.45	0.49	0.45	0.49	120,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	920,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.84	2.18	1.84	2.12	8,464,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	1,022,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	230,000
RFM Corp.	0.79	0.82	0.77	0.79	340,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.35	0.35	430,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	58	57.5	58	190,100
San Miguel Corp. B	69.5	70	69.5	70	26,000
Universal Robina Corp.	7.6	8.1	7.6	8.1	700,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	1,100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	7,000,000
Ayala Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	4,113,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.27	0.27	120,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	91,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.16	1.26	1.16	1.26	2,474,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	5,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	25.5	26	25.5	26	939,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	1,680,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.135	260,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.24	0.29	0.24	0.27	30,610,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.06	2.16	2.06	2.08	17,582,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.032	0.03	0.032	39,800,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24.5	24.5	24.25	24.5	418,600
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	130,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.075	0.07	0.0725	29,300,000
Ionics Inc.	1.72	2.18	1.72	2.18	6,441,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.64	1.72	1.64	1.72	154,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.3	34,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	280,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	15,230,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	20,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	190,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	500,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	140,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.145	0.17	0.145	0.155	7,600,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.18	0.18	1,580,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.22	0.2	0.215	13,750,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Jardine Davies Inc.	36	36	36	36	2,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	1,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.7	1.86	1.7	1.82	2,462,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	1,000,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.73	0.75	0.71	0.72	12,660,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	1.74	1.9	1.74	1.9	20,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	40,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20	20	20	20	220,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series A	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	63,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	1,135,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.46	70,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.245	2,310,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	2,190,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.93	0.94	0.93	0.94	5,670,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.0975	0.0975	0.0975	0.0975	400,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	20,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.16	0.19	0.16	0.19	2,800,000
City & Land Developers	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	11,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	1,000,000
SM Development Corp.	0.99	1.06	0.99	1.04	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	2,626,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	86,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3.05	3.05	3	3	75,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	1,900,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	5,040,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	34,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	103,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0036	0.0038	23,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.03	0.031	0.03	0.031	13,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	30,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	100,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	151,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0042	0.0042	76,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3	3.05	3	3	213,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	200,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	20,000

DISCLOSURES

NOMINATED directors of **Nextstage Inc.** were Orlando Vea, David Fernando, Rafael Morales, Jose Benjamin Fernandez, Vicente Ruaro, John Butterworth, Cesar Buenaventura, Edmundo Soriano and Angelo Mendoza.

* * *

PICOP Resources Inc. has announced the resignation of the following directors: Michael Bernardino, Eleanore Gutierrez, Celso Vivas and Roberto Atendido.

* * *

ELECTED officers and members of the board of **Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.** were Jeremias Beloy, chair and compliance officer; James Beloy, director and EVP; Edgar Lee Rodriqueza, director; Amelia Beloy, director and VP-administration; Conde Claro Venus, corporate secretary; Joel Beloy, VP-management and Calixto Catbagan, mining operation manager.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Manila Broadcasting Co.** were Fred Elizalde, Juan Elizalde, Jose Taruc, Ruperto Nicdao Jr., Eduardo Cordova, Gabriel Villareal, Hadrian Arroyo, Julio Macuja II and George Goduco. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

August 27, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.825900	1.000000	56.0860
Japan	Yen	0.007540	0.009130	0.5121
United Kingdom	Pound	1.483730	1.796500	100.7585
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105887	0.128208	7.1907
Switzerland	Franc	0.649293	0.786164	44.0928
Canada	Dollar	0.631470	0.764584	42.8825
Singapore	Dollar	0.481996	0.583601	32.7318
Australia	Dollar	0.578969	0.701016	39.3172
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.190891	2.652731	148.7811
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220240	0.266667	14.9563
Brunei	Dollar	0.480594	0.581903	32.6366
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000089	0.000108	0.0061
Thailand	Baht	0.019834	0.024015	1.3469
UAE	Dirham	0.224857	0.272257	15.2698
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.210800	67.9089
Argentina	Peso	0.276221	0.334448	18.7579
Brazil	Real	0.280109	0.339156	19.0219
Denmark	Kroner	0.134459	0.162803	9.1310
India	Rupee	0.017838	0.021598	1.2113
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217371	0.263193	14.7614
Mexico	New Peso	0.072750	0.088086	4.9404
New Zealand	Dollar	0.536020	0.649013	36.4005
Norway	Kroner	0.119794	0.145047	8.1351
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014082	0.017050	0.9563
South Africa	Rand	0.125159	0.151543	8.4994
Korea	Won	0.000716	0.000867	0.0486
Sweden	Kroner	0.109466	0.132542	7.4338
Syria	Pound	0.016034	0.019414	1.0889
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024370	0.029507	1.6549
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000431	0.000522	0.0293

ERC asked to explain 17.3¢ Meralco rate hike

By Abigail L. Ho

THE CONSUMER and Oil Price Watch is asking the Energy Regulatory Commission to explain its decision to grant Manila Electric Co. a 17.37-centavo generation rate adjustment mechanism (GRAM) for February to May.

COPW chair Raul Concepcion said in a statement yesterday that he would ask the ERC for a breakdown of Meralco's costs in relation to the power it got from National Power Corp. and independent power producers First Gas Power Corp. and Quezon Power Philippines Ltd.

The specific amount of electricity bought from each of these power producers should be revealed, he said, so that the consumer watchdog would have a clearer picture of how the 17.37-centavo figure came about.

He said he would also ask for a breakdown of the fuel mix used in generating the power supplied to Meralco, as well as a breakdown of the cost components for the months covered by the recently approved GRAM.

While seeking the breakdown of Meralco's power supply-related costs, he said he would also ask the ERC to explain the impact of the rate hike as a result of the GRAM on consumers, particularly as GRAM-related increases get implemented months after the actual costs were incurred.

Although Meralco's recently approved GRAM covered the February-May period, the resulting rate increase of 17.37 centavos per kilowatt-hour would be reflected only in next month's billing.

Concepcion said that based on his experience in monitoring oil prices, it would be easier to explain price adjustments if these were implemented monthly.

"The consumer will think that the cost of recovery is due to the higher cost of fuel when in fact it represents the substantially lower cost of Dubai (crude) and (the Mean of Platts Singapore benchmark for finished products) in February to May," he said.

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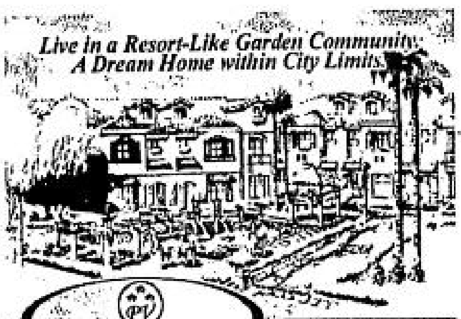

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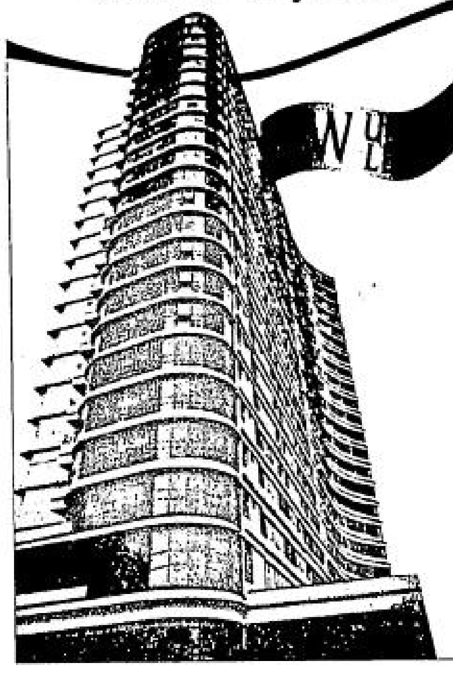

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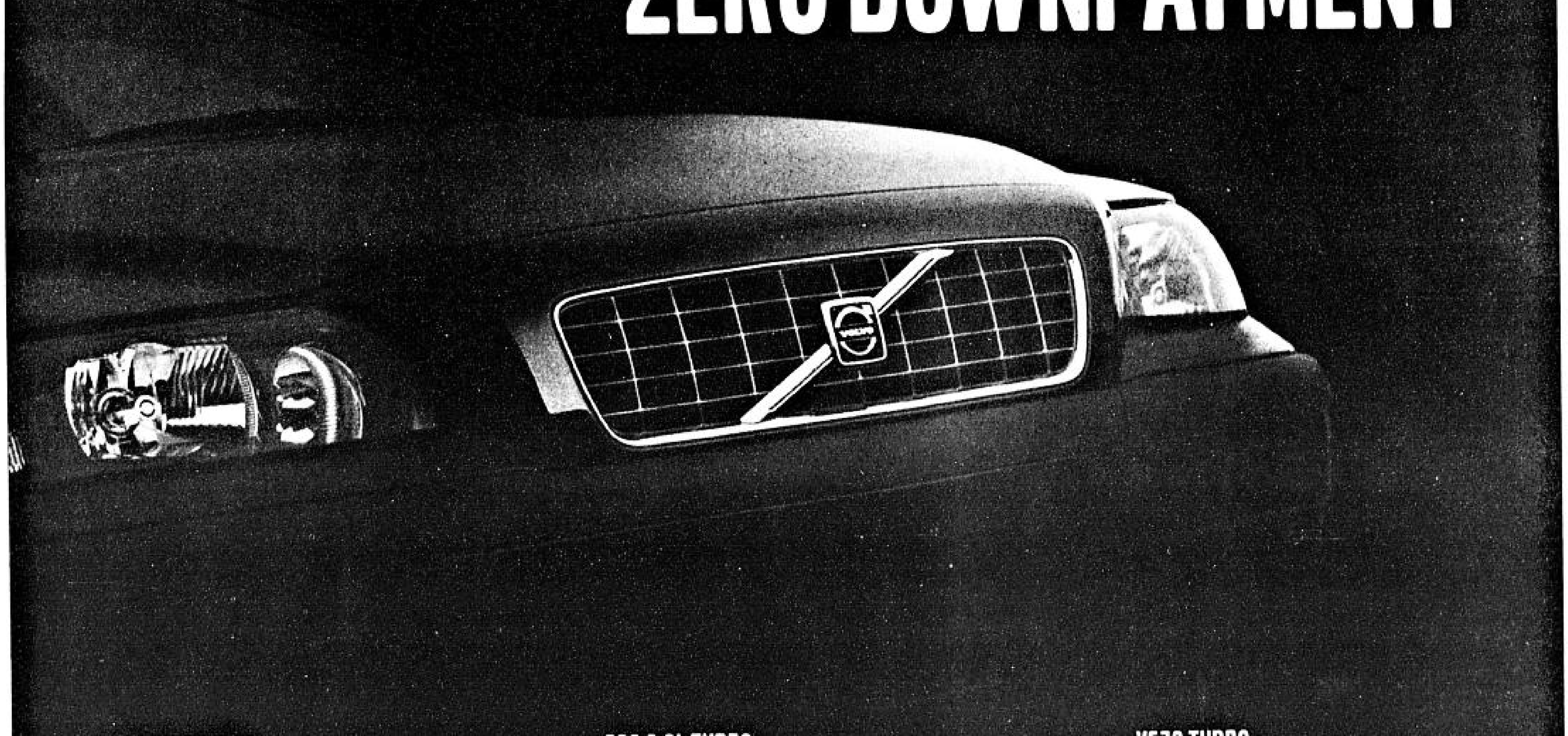

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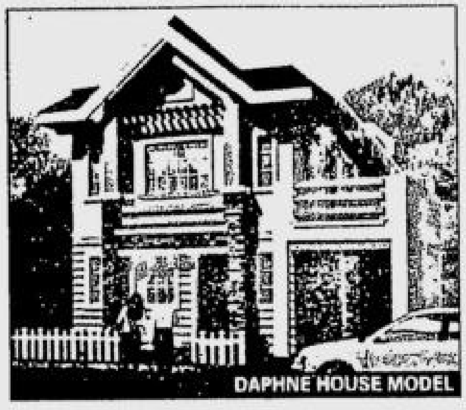
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Mandaluyong
overlooking
Golfcourse/Facing East
- 4 Bdrms w/ T&B
- 2 Parking Slots
- 2 Outdoor Verandas
- 310 Sqm. (total area)

Call: Ms. Bing Atesor
0920-9216122
9262802 (ofc. hours)

HOUSE & LOT

MANILA

Singalong Manila BnewTwnhse /3stry/3br/3tbmaid's rm1-2grge P3.990M up 8903461 loc. 34

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.8M 9487112

PARANAQUE

3BR LA359m² #56 BULGARIA ST 2 ADJCNT LOTS 240M²@ SOUTHERN JAMEN BTR LVNG PQUE 0921-3332838

5 Brms/4tb/Md's Rm W/ 1tb /Grge SnValley I Tel. 8077634 ;8079279

LA 167sqm FA 196sqm 3BR 3T&B Maids Rm 4.5M BF Sucat Paranaque Call 0917-8181024•0917-8181064

PASIG

C. GRANDE ORTIGAS 5BR 5TB FA-300M² P5M DBO T655-3561

Pasig H&L 3br 3tb RFO 1.9M Terms Inhse 0919-6782123

Valle Verde1 P22M 490m² 0927-8875776 / 0920-8720661

QUEZON CITY

★ST. IGNATIUS VIL
5BR 4TB LA400 FA320 famly rm cor 12M neg 0917-2769257

Proj.8 2Story S.Pool 1028sqm Theresa • 456-7356

Sta. Mesa Hts. Nr. Simon St. 240m² w/2Apt 984-8471 Violy/Mary

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

ATTENTION INVESTOR
Cagayan de Oro strategic Land for sale
... Two gaerlan lots besides dynasty near cathedral and City hall
... Three Narazeth lots near Xavier University
... Macasandig lot near schools
... Three coconut lands along highway and near Cugman river
... Gusa lot near Aliwana Subd.
... Sinonop lot near FS Catanico falls
Contact:
Owner - Mrs. Angela Mcneill - 001-323-661-6875 USA
A: Pacamalan - 08822-711734
Vera Donato - 0927-2451182

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M.H. Del Pilar St., Malate, Manila
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4.9M up
3 Bedroom units:
5.9M up
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www.pinoycondos.com

HOUSE & LOT

SAN JUAN

GREENHILLS WEST
FRONTING XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL
0919-8883585 / 721-2166

OTHER AREAS

A PRIME SUBD 2 bdrms 1T&B LA 170m² P1.3M Vic 8903461 loc 25/27

BULACAN

Sta Maria 225T 09196499406

LAGUNA

LAGUNA BEL-AIR LA 132m² 3bdrms 2T&B FA84m² P1.85M Vic 8903461 loc 27/25

METROVILLE SUBD LA 122m² 2bdrms 1T&B FA61 28m² P1.2M Vic 8903461 loc 27

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 3Stry FA2 10m² P1.9M VIC 8903461 LOC 27/25

Technopark 400T 09276438231

Technopark 760T 802-4254

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.2m C5 NR MKT/D FORT
10T/MO -VP 1-4BR 10% DP MOVE-In Or No DP/0% INT 0919-4407826/51440055

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8313226

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

MKT NR AYALA
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2-2 1/2tb/grge P3.285M up 8903461 loc 34

Mkt. Studio 2Br 2Tb Day/Monthly Tel/Prkg Flex/Term 8906331

MANILA

MALATE MLA
2BR, 3BR, PNTHSE 3YRS TO PAY NO INT T(0918)9132396

Near UST 4br 3tb 1cg Ok Bank Loan Call 645-3731

NR UST, ESPANA TOWER
6873372 0917-8102903

SN ANDRES MANILA Bnew Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.355M up 8903461 loc 34

Twnhses nr DLSU - Taft Ave LA42 - 48Sm 1Car P2.5M UP 562-3531 / 0917- 5272166

MANDALUYONG

•10%DP to move-in Mand RFO 123BR 4rent 0916-5945185

Bnew, 1,2&3 bdrms. RFO, 4 Rent Units Avail. 09192189817

PASIG

1.6M Ortigas RFO
P13T- UP,10% DP Move - In No DP/0% INT 2-4BR 0920-2621205 / 5140055

RENT TO OWN / NO DP, TERMS CONDO Near Fort N' Makati w/High Class Amenities 2-4BR P1.8 - P4.4M w/Disc. Anne Cell. 0920-2360929

QUEZON CITY

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Eastwood City 634-1212

Garden Hts Studio FFrn 1.7M 0917-4196237/0917-5387185

New Condo Valencia Hills N. Domingo QC 1BR2BR3BR to move-in only 20%DP Tel. 7508291•0927-7996662

SACRIFICE SALE! Katipunan Ateneo LA67 FA114 3.1M 3BR In house or cash, #70 Unit 10 Street Moritz Twnhse Esteban Abada St Loyola Call 09185494882

TEACHERS VILLAGE 5BR 4TB nr UP & Ateneo 18Mahabagin St. 09189356366 / 9132701

OTHER AREAS

SALE OR LEASE
- Dental Clinic FF w/ Kitchen, Bedroom & Sala.
- 158m² FF 3BR w/Grge Renaissance Condo Ortigas
- 89m² FF 1BR Renaissance Condo Ortigas
- 136m² Galleria De Magallanes 3BR FF
- 1,409m² w/ Warehouse & Office Marconi, Makati City
- 18,000 m² Sta Rosa Lag. Prop. Along D Rd Ideal 4 Factory w/Existing Driving Ranges
- 14.1/2 Hec. San Jose Del Monte City Ideal 4 Subd.
Contact: 0918-5796213

LOT

KALOOCAN

Rainbow Village 5 LA 216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

MANILA

Beside NTC Tel#7360313/7360317

MANDALUYONG

Edsa 400m² Hi Density Highly Comm'l Pls. Call 645-3731

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m² P4 054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

QUEZON CITY

Ayala Hillside Estates
Ms. Kallos 416-1661 • 952-7106
0917-3708160 • 0916-5461974

OTHER AREAS

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240m² P3,125/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

VILLA LIGAYA 149m² & 134m2 P3,534/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

OTHER PROVINCIAL

CAGBANG OTON ILOILO 6,100m² Call 656-0843

BATANGAS

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA613m2 P2,248/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m2 P2,900-m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

EAGLE RIDGE Res'l & (4) Golf C. w/ Free Country Club. Complid, ready titles, 4 Hsng w/ Golf Villas 4 Sale New Price Sept 633-3948; 0918-9377715; 531-2805 Divine

PARKPLACE SUBD LA120m² P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL DASMA nr SM 371m2 P2,650m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

Calamba Laguna Lot & Warehouse w/ wall quarters waterpump electricity Landline: Call Linda 043-3181310 / 0916-3640009

HOT SPRING LOTS
LA 175m² & Up at P3,750/m² 30% D/P Bal. 3 Yrs to pay at 0% adjacent U.P. Los Banos Call: 842-5877 • Cell 0927-2946992

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m2 LA240m2 Vic 8903461 loc 25/27

MEMORIAL LOT

Loy-M G-ress@52T 8366645

Loy-P Cheap 45T 0916-4834182

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

FOR SALE
- Mountain Quarry 16.25 Hec. (P400,000/hec.)
- Agricultural Land 5.0 Hec. (P900,000/hec.)
•Location: Brgy Dalig, Balayan, Batangas
- Contact: ELI Off. Hrs. Tel. 631-9520 • 634-4746 Cellphone 0917-8495433

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24has. adj spring / Pililla River, Ideal for farm lot /subd /orchard poultry / piggery P180/m² nego 911-5631 or 911-0735

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

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PASIG TAGIG AREA
LA7439m² FA3000m²
FULLY FENCED W/H2OTANK C6 ACCESS 0917-6251467 CALL 687-7325 • 656-0360

CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

SOUTHWATERS MARINA FARMS SELLING 160T (neg) CALL 0917-4196237

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY

ONE BURGUNDY PLAZA KATIPUNAN Q.C. FRNT ATENEO FA103, 75, 50 m² 9289541 / 7313055

HOUSE

MANDALUYONG

2BDRM HSE w/Garden & Rm 4Maid Call 0917-8340519

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

QUEZON CITY

1BR FLAT SEMIFURN W/MDS RM GRGE 11.5T 410-0890

OTHER AREAS

Kingsville Hills Subd Antipolo 2 Stry 2BR Bath Fmly Rm Drty Ktchn 6307585

LAGUNA

PACITA II BLURIDGE 5610197

CONDO/TWNHSE

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2BR FUR CTR PARK 8447524

SANLO DUPLEX 526-8048

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APARTMENT

MAKATI

7030 WILSON ST., NEAR MAKATI MED & URBAN BANK 4DOORS T-7355414/7353280

MANILA

840 P.Noval NR UST Tel 7313035 7361925 9289541

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Brnd new studio type Proj 2 4342604 / 0919-2876641

Lady 3.5Tnew studio9137513

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A.LUNA ST 2story spacious P9T/mo good loc'n 6461603

FOR LEASE

RUSH PACIFIC PLAZA 3BR furnish P70T/mo 6337601-03

ROOM & BOARD

120 MLA 7116679/4112311

BF PQUE 8257524/24HRS

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

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Res/Ofc 6319771 / 6349500

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2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

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MALATE MLA 526-8048

MAKATI

AYALA cor MAKATI AVE Office units 342 sqm, 122 sqm P250 /sqm. G/F1 food shop 6 sqm at P400/sqm.Call 8170405 Nina for details.

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APARTMENT FOR SALE/RENT

APT P4,500-7,000 Manila Bedspacers 1,500 above 561-0960 look for Joyce/Aj

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

CONDO FOR SALE/RENT
BAYVIEW INTL. TOWER 3
Roxas Blvd Pque. Semi Furnished 4br+maids, 1-Parking. Sale P7.5M / Rent P65Kpm + dues. Neg. Contact 8934110 or 0927 8904030

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L-3/ADV 415-8473

NISSAN Urvan 0917-5444721

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

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1.5% 1HR CAR LOAN 3743803

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 533-8254

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6567685

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

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BILLIARDS

25T New Compl Sr Impld 7767507

Sale/Rental/Service 8014494

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DOPPLERS DIAGNOSTIC SET LOW PRICE RUSH 0927 4723428

EDUC PLAN Gie 7800106

EDUC'L PLAN Dang 8061574

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LEOCADIO T. DATU consisting of personal property was extrajudicially settled and adjudicated to his sole and only heir by means of a public instrument executed on 2 August 2004 and ratified before Atty Flor E. Egipto Notary Public in and for Quezon City as per Doc No. 5136 Page No. 184 Book No. VIII Series of 2004
(PDI-Aug 21, 28 & Sept 4, 2004)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late AURORA C. FLORES adjudicated by her surviving heir DEBORRAH S. MOSTOLES with TCT No. 106624 as per Doc. No. 206 Page No. 143 Book No. 4A Series of 2003 before Notary Public Atty. Hector B. Centeno.
(PDI-Aug. 14, 21 & 28, 2004)

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PORT OF MANILA
Customs District II-A
South Harbor, Manila

NOTICE OF OVERSTAYING SHIPMENTS

24 August 2004

Notice is hereby given that the following articles imported separately on various dates at the Port of Manila are considered as overstaying shipments, no entries having been filed thereon within thirty (30) days from the date of discharge of the last package from the carrying vessel, or if an entry has been filed, no claim/adjudication was made by their respective consignees/importers or rightful claimants thereof, to wit:

Container No.	Reg.	A/D	Consignee	Description
APLU 881730	APL024	6/11/00	George Town Elect. System	1x40'stc:units Scrap Junk Transformers
APLU 9894651	APL012	3/25/01	Masinag Trading	Used Replacement Parts for Auto
INBU 5232902	ATK046	6/10/00	Smile MPC Ruth Palma	292pcs. Used Household Goods
POCU 1060480	SKI070	6/22/00	Smile MPC Ruth Palma	130pcs. used Household Goods
TTNU 4737458	ATK048	6/18/00	Smile MPC Ruth Palma	409pcs. used Household Goods
CGMU 2516998	WLC078	10/14/00	Flour City Arle Corp.	1x20'Cntr Bldg. & Const. Materials
CGMU 4283663	WLC001	1/03/00	Wallem Philippines	22plts. Donated relief Cargo contr.
OCLU 1460745	ESA031	7/14/00	Smile MPC Ruth Palma	145pcs. used Household Goods
PONU 1236280	ESA025	6/22/00	Smile MPC Ruth Palma	193pcs. used Household Goods
INBU 4692930	TMA013	8/11/00	A&R	1x40'Household Goods & Personal Effects
INBU 4662405	ESA028	7/12/00	Smile MPC Ruth Palma	184pcs. used Household Goods
INBU 4679310	ESA031	7/13/00	Smile MPC Ruth Palma	75pcs. used Household Goods
TEXU 2074510	ATK144	12/07/02	To Order of Leader G	23 cartons & 296 rolls Fabric
WHLU 50448693	WHL058	7/09/99	Jac Phil. Enterprises	Edenor ST. 8-Mystearis Acid T/S Cargo
HDMU 4045242	ATK026	2/26/03	Griffin Steel and Iron	AL-PL Composite Pipe
MLCU 4970763	FJS073	10/14/00	Missionaries of the Poor	399pcs. Over the Counter Medicines
YMLU 4574700	SKI052	5/20/99	Nor-Phil Door to Door	2pkgs. STC: Personal Effects
YMLU 2717036	SKI116	12/13/00	SKP Enterprises Phils.	Used TV set 120 used Refrigerator
AMFU 8439544	UGM016	2/21/04	Asianlink Shipping Lines	Shippers Load & Count STC:277 pkgs.
FSCU 3879778	REL034	7/17/04	Purex	
CBHU 1575830	ATK043	6/02/04	Menco Marketing	Knitted Shirt
TEXU 2408304	WHL086	5/31/04	Mercedes International	Low Density Polyethelene Grade 5321
YMLU 3036443	WHL086	5/31/04	Mercedes International	Low Density Polyethelene Grade 5321
GESU 2566157	ATK053	7/06/04	Gerry Valle	Pre-Lam Foil
DNAU 4524019	USI034	7/02/04	Philusa Corporation	543 ctns BBFLO nipples, pacifier, bottles
ZIMU 2543676	OVF017	7/01/04	A41 Konex Trading Corp.	1998 pkgs. Bathroom fixtures, etc.
ZIMU 2549093	OVF017	7/01/04	A41 Konex Trading Corp.	1998 pkgs. Bathroom fixtures, etc.
CLHU 8785680	OVF017	7/02/04	Konka Three Dragon	717 ctns. Asst. Electronic Parts
FSCU 6632375	OVF017	7/02/04	Konka Three Dragon	459 ctns. Asst. Electronic Parts
ZCSU 8060618	OVF017	7/01/04	Konka Three Dragon	717 ctns. Asst. Electronic Parts
ZCSU 8228620	OVF017	7/01/04	Konka Three Dragon	459 ctns. Asst. Electronic Parts
FSCU 3159778	OVF016	6/14/04	Refractories Corp.	42 bags D8MO97/DBMO95
GLDU 2252229	OVF016	6/13/04	Refractories Corp.	42 bags D8MO97/DBM095
TGHU 2991518	USI034	7/02/04	Nestle Philippines	2x20' cotns. STC: 36.48 MT NBD Palm Oil
TGHU 2767426	WLC009	7/11/04	Nestle Philippines	2x20'conts. STC: 36.48 MT NBD Palm Oil
TGHU 3007578	WLC009	7/11/04	Nestle Philippines	2x20' conts. STC: 36.48 MT NBD Palm Oil
SENU 4300489	MOF026	6/28/04	ILOILO Electronic Co.	95 pcws 1x40' cont stc Electrical Parts
CLHU 2592765	WLC009	7/11/04	Wrigley Philippines	3x20'conts stc 3 Flexibag C* sweet 01192
HJCU 2592765	WLC009	7/11/04	Wrigley Philippines	3x20'conts. Stc3 Flexibag C* sweet 01192
HJCU 8807861	WLC009	7/11/04	Wrigley Philippines	3x20' conts stc 3 Flexibag C* sweet 01192
GESU 2040012	USI034	7/02/04	Wrigley Philippines	3x20' conts stc 3 Flexibag 2126 MT Net C*
HJCU 8877684	ASL021	7/02/04	Wrigley Philippines	3x20' conts stc 3 Flexibag 2126 MT Net C*
TTNU 2825930	ASL021	7/02/04	Wrigley Philippines	3x20' conts stc 3 Flexibag 2126 MT Net C*
FSCU 3007179	USI035	7/15/04	Wrigley Philippines	2x20' conts stc 2 pkgs. Flexibags
GESU 2022831	USI035	7/15/04	Wrigley Philippines	2x20' conts stc 2 pkgs. Flexibags
CAXU 2313245	ASL021	7/03/04	Bay Specialist Trading	15x20' GP stc 5700 bags of Starch
CAXU 6163713	ASL021	7/03/04	Bay Specialist Trading	15x20' GP stc 5700 bags of Starch
CKPU 2851870	ASL021	7/03/04	Bay Specialist Trading	15x20' GP stc 5700 bags of Starch
GSTU 2187581	ASL021	7/03/04	Bay Specialist Trading	15x20' GP stc 5700 bags of Starch
GSTU 2677017	ASL021	7/03/04	Bay Specialist Trading	15x20' GP stc 5700 bags of Starch
GSTU 3239139	ASL021	7/03/04	Bay Specialist Trading	15x20' GP stc 5700 bags of Starch
GSTU 5124680	ASL021	7/03/04	Bay Specialist Trading	15x20' GP stc 5700 bags of Starch
INBU 3536465	ASL021	7/03/04	Bay Specialist Trading	15x20' GP stc 5700 bags of Starch
INBU 3537918	ASL021	7/03/04	Bay Specialist Trading	15x20' GP stc 5700 bags of Starch
INBU 3543398	ASL021	7/03/04	Bay Specialist Trading	15x20' GP stc 5700 bags of Starch
INBU 3552276	ASL021	7/03/04	Bay Specialist Trading	15x20' GP stc 5700 bags of Starch
INBU 3552996	ASL021	7/03/04	Bay Specialist Trading	15x20' GP stc 5700 bags of Starch
INBU 3554900	ASL021	7/03/04	Bay Specialist Trading	15x20' GP stc 5700 bags of Starch
ITLU 8311122	ASL021	7/03/04	Bay Specialist Trading	15x20' GP stc 5700 bags of Starch
TTNU 2627710	ASL021	7/03/04	Bay Specialist Trading	15x20' GP stc 5700 bags of Starch
TEXU2164506	OPI028	7/04/04	Inter Ocean Container	1x20' conts. Of Food Additives
TRIU 4981216	OPI027	6/27/04	Mr. Terence Thompson	1x40' stc Diplomatic Shipment
OOLU6107781	OPI029	7/10/04	Paula Foods Corp.	1x40' HC Reefer stc Frozen Pork Bellies
YMLU 2814416	RCL027	7/08/04	Sister of Presentation	Mission Goods-Freight Prepaid
YMLU 2827537	RCL027	7/08/04	Sister of Presentation	Mission Goods-Freight Prepaid
CRLU 9130011	RCL024	6/17/04	Wrigley Philippines	Stc 574 ctns. Of Wrigley Chewing Gum
WHLU 7600630	WHL103	6/29/04	Shelleson Enterprises	Onions-temp. + 1'C vent. 50 CBM/H
WHLU 2116048	WHL103	6/29/04	Shelleson Enterprises	Onions-temp. + 1'C vent. 50 CBM/H
WHLU 2095644	WHL105	7/05/04	The AV Gear Company	1x20' PNSONIC Brand Ramsa Pro-Audio Sys
WHLU2095644	WHL107	7/07/04		
WHLU 2176598	WHL108	7/09/04		
WHLU 2316447	WHL108	7/09/04		
WHLU 2601505	WHL108	7/09/04		
WHLU 9528647	WHL108	7/09/04		
GESU 2630873	ATK045	6/06/04	Finemates International	Blind Rivets
ZCSU 8177369	OVF015	6/09/04	A.V. Gear	1x40' hicube Contr. 1994 Dodge Funeral
KLTU 1072887	ATK044	6/06/04	Lapedema Timber and-	5605pcs=19.6486 M3 of Laminating Board
WHLU 2081189	WHL101	7/02/04	A41 Koex Trading Corp.	General Merchandise
WHLU 2343720	WHL101	7/02/04	A41 Koex Trading Corp.	General Merchandise
TPCU 8906853	WHL092	6/10/04	Cyrus Logistics Inc.	Mini Compo Spare Parts
FSCU 3812964	RCL028	7/16/04	Philippine Bonded Warehouse	
FSCU 3075825	RCL028	7/16/04	Philippine Bonded Warehouse	
GATU 0089682	RCL028	7/16/04	Philippine Bonded Warehouse	
REGU 2942520	RCL028	7/16/04	Philippine Bonded Warehouse	
REGU 3004482	RCL028	7/16/04	Philippine Bonded Warehouse	
REGU 3019158	RCL028	7/16/04	Philippine Bonded Warehouse	
REGU 3036767	RCL028	7/16/04	Philippine Bonded Warehouse	
REGU 3042353	RCL028	7/16/04	Philippine Bonded Warehouse	
REGU 2058637	RCL028	7/16/04	Philippine Bonded Warehouse	
REGU 3058827	RCL028	7/16/04	Philippine Bonded Warehouse	
REGU 3089983	RCL028	7/16/04	Philippine Bonded Warehouse	
TEXU 3574510	RCL028	7/16/04	Philippine Bonded Warehouse	
TTNU 2816959	RCL028	7/16/04	Philippine Bonded Warehouse	
UXXU 2214967	RCL028	7/16/04	Philippine Bonded Warehouse	

Failure of the consignee/importer or such other rightful claimant to claim/adjudicate his/her importation within fifteen (15) days from date of this notification shall be deemed to be a renunciation of all his/her interest and property rights in favor of the government pursuant to Section 1801 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines (TCCP), as amended by RA 7651, and the same shall be sold through public auction pursuant to the provisions of the TCCP and other pertinent rules and regulations.

(Sgd.) Atty. **RONNIE C. SILVESTRE**
District Collector
Port of Manila

(PDI - August 28 2004)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF PUBLIC BIDDING

This refers to the Invitation to Bid advertisement of the Development Bank of the Philippines published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on August 16 and 17, 2004. In this regard, the public is advised that due to work suspension, the bidding for the Bank's acquired assets originally scheduled on August 26, 2004 has been postponed for **September 8, 2004** to be held at 2:00 p.m., DBP Head Office Auditorium, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City.

Asset Management Department

(PDI - Aug. 28, 2004)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

MERGERS DRUGFIL CORPORATION would like to inform the public that the OFFICIAL RECEIPTS bearing the nos. 1661 - 1700 has been lost. Henceforth any transaction using the said receipts will not bind the company.

Management

PUBLIC NOTICES

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin: Oh most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh star of the sea, help me and show me here you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make request) there are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times) Holy Mary, I place this prayer in your hands (3 times) Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days [illegible]

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TransCo

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Date : August 24, 2004
Contract No. BCMD.2004-012

1. Contarct Name : Supply and Delivery of Laboratory Standard and Testing Systems for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao
2. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of supply and delivery of the following Laboratory Standard and Testing Systems; (CIP) Metering Services Group of Transco, Diliman, Quezon City.
   a) Three-Phase Electricity Reference Standard
   b) Three-Phase Test and Measurement System
   c) Primary Transfer Standard
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid from the Internal Cash Generation of Transco is P24,200,000.00
4. Application for Eligibility and Bidding is open to Filipino manufacturers, suppliers/ dealers, distributors who have the legal, technical and financial requisites of the contract to be bid.

   The prospective bidder should bid on all of the items listed above. A bid one (1) or a combination of any two (2) shall be rejected.
5. Application for Eligibility and bids shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be included by TransCo in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the supplier's offer to the contract under bidding subject to Post qualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
6. Eligibility & Bid Documents will be available for issuance on **August 27, 2004** at the **Bids and Contract Management Department**, Ground Floor, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-23-08 upon presentation of Letter of Intent and a payment of non-refundable fee of P5,000.00.
7. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility Forms, statements and Bid Proposals (Technical and Price) shall be on **September 24, 2004, 1:30 P.M.** at the De La Paz Function Room, Training Center, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road TransCo, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila

   If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working holiday, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission shall not be accepted.

   Pre-Bid Conference shall be on **September 7, 2004** at the same venue.
8. Manufacturers, suppliers/dealers, distributors not yet included in the TransCo's List of registered Suppliers/Contractors, who wish to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility check/screening, are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements, duly notarized, which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A certificate of Registration will be issued to suppliers/contractors upon approval.
   - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate;
   - Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year;
   - Copy of Taxpayer's Identification Number (TIN) issued by BIR or Copy of BIR registration showing TIN;
   - Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation;
   - Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipts;

   For foreign bidders who will form into a joint venture, the required documents applicable to entities doing business in the Philippines shall be substituted by the appropriate equivalent documents issued by foreign bidder's country, which documents shall be duly acknowledged and/or authenticated by the Philippine Consulate thereat.

   Note : Prospective bidders are allowed to submit the above requirements together with their Eligibility Forms and Documents during the deadline for the submission of Eligibility requirements and Bid proposals (Technical and Price)
9. TransCo reserves the right to reject any application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
10. The Contract to be bid shall be governed by the Provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.
11. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) DOMINADOR S. GEONZON
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – August 28 & September 4, 2004)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. MMD-TRANSCO 2004-063

PD Ref. No.: PB040115-EL0007 (PB2)

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (TRANSCO - BAC) - HEAD OFFICE**, invites local bidders/contractors to apply for eligibility who are:
   a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; or
   b. Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   c. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   d. Manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors forming themselves into a joint venture, i.e., group of two (2) or more manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract; Provided, however, That Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least sixty percent (60%); or
   e. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).
2. Procurement of:

Schedule	Description	Quantity	Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
II	METER SEAL	10,000 PCS	P 375,000.00
III	METER BOX	30 PCS	P 450,000.00
IV	METER TEST	30 PCS	P 405,000.00
	TOTAL		P 1,230,000.00

3. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall be specified in the Technical Quotation Form of the Bid Documents that will be issued.

   The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be Bid is ***P1,230,000.00*** to be sourced from the Internal Cash Generation of TransCo.
4. The Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting **August 26, 2004 to September 21, 2004** at the BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division (MMD), Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** per set.
5. Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **September 10, 2004, 10:00 A.M.** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo, Main Building, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
6. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before **10:00 AM of September 22, 2004** at the Admin Conference room, G/F TransCo Main Building, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date falls on a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
7. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of R.A. 9184.
8. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
9. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO G. LABAYANI**
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI – August 28 & September 2, 2004)

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
REGION IV
Balagtas, Batangas City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Food Authority in Region IV, with its official address at Brgy. Balagtas, Batangas City, is inviting all interested sack manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of brand new white polypropylene plastic sack containers for palay and rice as indicated below:

Lot No.	Type	Quantity (pieces) (More or Less)	Approved Budget for the Contract ABC	Schedule of Delivery
1	Palay (PPRE50)	790,000	P7,110,000.00	50,000 on or before Oct. 8, 2004 100,000 on or before Oct. 15, 2004 200,000 on or before Oct. 22, 2004 300,000 on or before Oct. 29, 2004 140,000 on or before Nov. 05, 2004
2	Rice (PPMG50)	420,000	P2,940,000.00	50,000 on or before Oct. 8, 2004 100,000 on or before Oct. 15, 2004 150,000 on or before Oct. 22, 2004 120,000 on or before Oct. 29, 2004
3	Rice (PPMG50)	210,000	P1,470,000.00	50,000 on or before Oct. 8, 2004 100,000 on or before Oct. 15, 2004 60,000 on or before Oct. 22, 2004
4	Palay (PPRE50)	1,290,000	P11,610,000.00	50,000 on or before Oct. 8, 2004 100,000 on or before Oct. 15, 2004 200,000 on or before Oct. 22, 2004 300,000 on or before Oct. 29, 2004 300,000 on or before Nov. 05, 2004 340,000 on or before Nov. 12, 2004
5	Rice (PPMG50)	705,000	P4,935,000.00	50,000 on or before Oct. 8, 2004 100,000 on or before Oct. 15, 2004 150,000 on or before Oct. 22, 2004 200,000 on or before Oct. 29, 2004 205,000 on or before Nov. 05, 2004
6	Palay (PPRE50)	180,000	P1,620,000.00	50,000 on or before Oct. 8, 2004 130,000 on or before Oct. 15, 2004
7	Rice (PPMG50)	100,000	P700,000.00	50,000 on or before Oct. 8, 2004 50,000 on or before Oct. 15, 2004
8	Rice (PPMG50)	300,000	P2,100,000.00	50,000 on or before Oct. 8, 2004 100,000 on or before Oct. 15, 2004 150,000 on or before Oct. 22, 2004

Summary of Bidding Procedures:

The Bidding shall be governed by RA 9184. A single stage Three Envelope System of evaluation will be adopted. Envelope A shall contain the eligibility requirements. Envelope B shall contain the Technical Proposal and Envelope C shall contain the Financial Proposal. As specified in the Instruction to Bidders, each envelope will be evaluated consecutively using a non-discretionary "Pass" or "Fail" criteria. Only those bidders who complied with all the requirements in Envelope A shall be declared "Passed" and shall proceed with the opening of Envelope B. Only those bidders whose envelopes A and B were declared "Passed" shall proceed to the next phase which is the opening of Envelope C containing the accomplished and signed Bid Form.

Bids will be ranked from lowest to highest to determine the lowest calculated bid. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid shall undergo post-qualification by the BAC to verify, the validate and ascertain statements made and authenticate documents submitted in the eligibility requirements. After which, bidder shall be declared "Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid" and shall be recommended for awarding of the contract.

Schedule of Activities as follows:

Activity	Date/s	Time
Issuance of Bidding Documents	Aug. 28-Sept. 7, 2004	Mon.-Fri. 8:00 AM-5:00 PM
Pre-Bidding Conference	Sept. 9, 2004	10:00 AM
Deadline for Submission of Bids	Sept. 22, 2004	12:00 NN
Opening of Bids	Sept. 22, 2004	1:30 PM

Venue shall be at NFA Region IV Conference Room, Balagtas, Batangas City.

Bid documents can be obtained from the Region IV RBAC secretariat after paying a non-refundable, non-transferable fee of P2,000.00. For further inquiries, you may call the undersigned at the following numbers. (043) 723-3325 and (043) 402-1878.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR INFORMALITIES FOUND THEREIN AND ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH, IN ITS JUDGMENT, ARE MOST REASONABLE AND ADVANTAGEOUS TO NFA. THE DECISION OF THE RBAC, AS CONFIRMED BY THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR, SHALL BE DEEMED FINAL.

(Sgd.) RUBEN S. RIMANDO
Assistant Regional Director
and RBAC Chairman

(PDI – August 28 & September 3, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
OLD MIA ROAD, PASAY CITY
METRO MANILA

IN RE: PETITION FOR AUTHORITY TO ACT)
AS GENERAL SALES AGENT FOR PALAU)
MICRONESIA AIR (PHILS.) INC.) CAB CASE NO. 25025
ASIA PACIFIC CHARTERING (PHILS.) INC.,)
Petitioner.)

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 776 as amended, notice is hereby given that **ASIA PACIFIC CHARTERING (PHILS) INC.** has filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) a petition for authority to act as General Sales Agent for Palau Micronesia Air (Phils.) Inc. The initial hearing of the above entitled case will be held on **August 31, 2004 at 2:30 p.m.** at the Conference Room of the CAB, Old Mia Road, Pasay City, Metro Manila before the undersigned Hearing Officer, at which hearing, the petitioner shall present evidence.

The petitioner is hereby required to have this Notice of Hearing published at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation.

Parties opposed to the granting of the petition must file their written opposition on or before the date of the hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the petitioner, and appear at the hearing with such evidence as may be proper under the premises. Failure on the part of any interested party to file its opposition on time and appear at the hearing shall be construed as a waiver of its right to be heard and the Civil Aeronautics Board shall proceed to hear and decide this petition on its merit.

Let a copy of the Petition and this Notice be posted at the CAB Bulletin Board beginning today.

09 August 2004
Pasay City, Philippines

(Sgd) FREDERICK G. VILLARIN
Hearing Officer

(PDI-August 14, 21 & 28, 2004)

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NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

As per POEA requirement the public is hereby notified that **WINGS 356 RESOURCES & TRADE CORPORATION** with office address at Unit 316 Balagtas Villas, Balagtas St., Pasay City is applying for a Recruitment License with the following as incorporators:

Bethel T. Shima – President
Jamesbeth A. Araña – Vice-President
Hiroto Shima – Treasurer
Esther T. Araña – Corporate Secretary
Rolando R. Ayeng – Member

(PDI-Aug 28, 2004)

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CIP COMPLEX, SERGING OSMEÑA BLVD., NORTH RECLAMATION AREA,
CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. (032) 2323401-04; FAX NO. (032) 2321990
E-MAIL: pparo7@cvis.net.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Ports Authority through the Port District of Visayas invites interested bidders to submit Application to apply for eligibility, and subsequently to bid, if pre-qualified for the:

A.1 Name of project : DREDGING OF PORTS
B.1 Scope of Work :
- I General Expenses
- II Dredging Work Tapal Port, Ubay, Bohol (Volume=10,000.00 cu.m.)
- III Dredging Work Jagna Port, Bohol (Volume=16,057.00 cu.m.)
- IV Dredging Work Larena Port, Siquijor (Volume=10,000.00 cu.m.

C.1 Budget for the Contract : P 7,015,978.00
Source of Funding : PPA Corporate Fund
Contract Duration : 44 Calendar Days

A.2 Name of Project : DREDGING OF PORTS
B.2 Scope of Work :
- I General Expenses
- II Dredging Work San Jose Port, Antique (Volume=30,000.00 cu.m.)

C.2 Budget for the Contract : P 6,416,861.00
Source of Funding : PPA Corporate Fund
Contract Duration : 23 Calendar Days

D. Minimum Equipment Requirements:
1.0 1 unit Non-propelled grab type dredger, GW 320 tons with mechanically operated crane at 60 tons capacity with 3.0 cu.m. grab bucket capacity
2.0 2 units Non-propelled hopper barge DWT 800T; 550 cu.m. net capacity
3.0 2 units Tugboat, 850 & 500Hp
4.0 1 unit EDM
5.0 1 unit Echosounder
6.0 2 units Theodolite

E. Required PCAB Registration & Classification : Medium "A" Port, Harbor & Offshore Engineering

Bid Documents shall be issued only to eligible licensed contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents of Ph.2,000.00.

F. Experience:
Similar in nature and complexity with at least 50% of the approved budget for the Contract to be bid.

G. Cost of Pre-qualification or Eligibility Form : P 200.00
Place of Issuance : Philippine Ports Authority
Port District – Visayas
BAC Secretariat
CIP Complex, North Reclamation Area
Cebu City

H. Last day of Issuance of Pre-C Forms : September 9, 2004

I. Deadline of Submission of Accomplished Pre-C/Eligibility Forms : September 16, 2004

Only contractors classified and registered with the Philippine Contractor's Accreditation Board (PCAB) on Contractor's License and Registration Particulars will be issued Eligibility Forms. The Forms are available at the BAC Secretariat, CIP Complex, Serging Osmeña Boulevard, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City. Interested applicants are required to bring a letter of intent and original copy of Contractor's valid PCAB License for verification/authentication purposes.

All particulars relative to the pre-qualification, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by EO 40 and RA 9184.

Further information may be obtained from the following:

BAC Secretariat : Tel. No. (032) 232-3401
PPA Website : www.ppa.com.ph
www.cvis.net.ph/ppa

The Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informality in the proposals received and to accept such bid most advantageous to the Philippine Ports Authority.

(Sgd.) **RAUL T. SANTOS**
Port District Manager

(PDI-August 20 & 28, 2004)

INVITATION FOR RE-BID

ARMM SOCIAL FUND PROJECT
Loan No. 7153 PH
IFRB-ASF-02-2004

August 21, 2004

1. The Government of the Philippines through the ARMM Social Fund (ASF) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of strategic infrastructure component of the ARMM Social Fund (ASF) Project and it intends to apply a portion of this proceeds to cover eligible payments under the contract for the construction of various infrastructure sub-projects. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.
2. The ARMM Social Fund (ASF) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction/rehabilitation of the hereunder subproject:
   - Sub-Project Code : SRI-SUL-RPF-001
     Title : Rehabilitation and Improvement of Jolo Base Port [(1) Construction Passenger Terminal Building, (2) Rehabilitation of Concrete Pavement and Retaining Wall-Berth No. 3 (3) Rehabilitation of Admin. & Engineering Building]
     Project Location : Poblacion, Jolo, Sulu
   - Sub-Project Code : SRI-TAW-RPF-001
     Title : Rehabilitation and Improvement of Bongao Base Port (1. Construction of Passenger Terminal Building; 2. Rehabilitation of Pier Slab; 3. Rehabilitation of Dilapidated Rubber Dock Fenders)
   - Location : Poblacion, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at ARMM Social Fund, 3rd Floor VHW (Land Bank) Building, Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City. Telephone Numbers (062) 992-2684-86 & 992-2706, Fax No. 991-9410, E-mail: ASF@info.com.ph
4. A complete set of bidding document in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application addressed to ARMM Social Fund and upon payment of non-refundable fee of *PhP 3,500.00* or its equivalent in a fully convertible currency, for each set starting **August 24, 2004.** The method of payment will be on cash basis only.
5. Bids shall be valid for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days after bid opening and must be delivered and will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representative who choose to attend at 10:00 a.m., September 28, 2004 at the ASF Conference Room, 3rd Floor, VHW (Land Bank) Bldg., Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City and must be accompanied by a minimum bid security of at least 2.5% of the total bid amount in the form of cash, certified check, or bank guarantee drawn against a Bank acceptable to the ASF and to expire thirty (30) calendar days after bid validity.
6. Interested bidders are invited to attend a Pre-Bid Conference to be held at ASF Office on **September 09, 2004** to start at 10:00 a.m.
7. The ARMM Social Fund reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to cancel the bidding process and reject all bids, at any time prior to the award of the contract, without thereby incurring financial or any liability to the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the ARMM Social Fund's action.

(Sgd.) **NAZRULLAH B. MANZUR**
Executive Director

(PDI - Aug. 21 & 28, 2004)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG KATARUNGAN
PANGASIWAAN SA PATALAAN NG LUPAIN
(LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY)
East Avenue cor. NIA Road
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Registration Authority (LRA) invites all interested bidders duly registered with the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) to participate in the bidding for the following services:

TYPE OF SERVICE	MANPOWER REQUIREMENT	PLACE OF DEPLOYMENT	CONTRACT DURATION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
Janitorial	47	Nationwide	one month	P 490,876.23
Security	60	Nationwide	one month	P 910,432.45
Cargo Forwarding	–	Nationwide	one month	P 191,401.80

The source of funding is SARO No. C-04-01754 dated July 9, 2004.

List of Eligibility Requirements can be secured on August 30 to September 3, 2004 from the BAC-PGSM Secretariat, Lower Ground Floor, LRA Building East Avenue corner NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Submission of eligibility requirements is from September 9 to 14, 2004. Prospective bidders shall present the original documents of all eligibility requirements for authentication purposes. Eligible parties shall be issued a complete set of Bid Documents on September 24 to 29, 2004 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00.

All interested parties are invited to attend the pre-bid conference to be held at the LRA Multi-Purpose Hall, 5th Floor, LRA Building on the following schedule:

TYPE OF SERVICE	DATE	TIME
Janitorial Services	September 30, 2004	10:00 a.m.
Security Services	September 30, 2004	2:00 p.m.
Cargo Forwarding Services	October 1, 2004	10:00 a.m.

Sealed Bids shall be received and be opened at the LRA Multi-Purpose Hall, 5th Floor, LRA Building on the following dates and time:

TYPE OF SERVICE	DATE	TIME
Janitorial Services	October 12, 2004	10:00 a.m.
Security Services	October 12, 2004	2:00 p.m.
Cargo Forwarding Services	October 13, 2004	10:00 a.m.

The BAC-PGSM reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formality in the bids received, and to accept any such offer that may be considered advantageous to LRA.

The bidders shall bear all costs in the preparation of their bids and the government shall in no case be responsible or liable for their costs regardless of the outcome of the bidding process.

(Sgd.) **EDILBERTO R. FELICIANO**
Deputy Administrator
Chairman, BAC-PGSM

(PDI August 15 & 28 2004)

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
CREMATORY SERVICES
ON CALL 24 HOURS A DAY
104 years
143 G Araneta Avenue corner Kaliraya Street, Quezon City
Telephone Nos 749-3806 to 11 • 712-3001 • 743-6502
743-6505 • 743-6508 • Fax No 712-2782

THE HERITAGE PARK FORT BONIFACIO
Memorial Park
Mortuary
Viewing Chapels
Crematory
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38

OBITUARIES

Venancio Cruz Garcia

Founding Member, UP Beta Sigma (1946)
of Bocaue, Bulacan and 47 Women's Club St.
Santol, Quezon City

.... Peacefully joined our Creator on August 26, 2004 at the age of 81.

His bereaved wife **Ruth Munar Garcia**; children and children-in-law **Patrocinio** (deceased), **Ma. Lourdes** and **Michael**, **Venancio Jr.** and **Socorro**, **Rizalino** and **Teresa**, **Lorenzo** and **Elsa**, **Bien** & **Naomi** and **Joey**; and to his grandchildren **Venjo**, **J-Vince**, **Nikko**, **Carlo**, **Paolo**, **Angelica** and **Renz**; other relative and friends request the reader to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 29, 2004 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ANNA THELMA QUINTOS-TENEDERO
"TELLIE"

who joined her Creator on August 15, 2004

wish to convey our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to all our relatives, friends, those who sent condolences, flowers, donations, offered masses and prayers, attended the funeral rites and those who helped and comforted us in so many ways during our time of bereavement.

Sa inyong lahat, maraming, maraming salamat po.

Erlo, Bojok, Apple and Yvie

Past President: Philippine College of Surgeons, Metro Manila Chapter (1994)
: Philippine College of Surgeons, 1995
: International College of Surgeons, 1996
Chairman : UDMC Department of Surgery (1990-2004)
Director : UDMC Postgraduate Training for Medical Education (2000-2004)

DR. MERLIN C. CIPRIANO

of Taguig, Rizal

Died in the Grace of our Lord on August 25, 2004 at the age of 70.

With a deep sense of loss,

The Board of Directors, Medical Staff and Employees of **UNITED DOCTORS MEDICAL CENTER** condole with his entire family and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be on August 29, at the La Loma Memorial Cemetery, Caloocan after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Two Hearts of Jesus & Mary Parish, West Triangle, Quezon City.

OUR DEARLY BELOVED MAMA

VICTORIA "LILY" B. SUNICO

of Mandaluyong City

Peacefully joined our Lord on August 26, 2004 at the age of 79.

Her husband **Renato**; loving children **Leah** and **Danny**, **Ricky** and **Mia**; grandchildren **Dan Louie** and **Cheng**, **Dan Lester** and **Soren**; great grandchildren **Louis**, **Ysabel** and **Iñigo** and sisters **Nenita**, **Connie**, **Jeane** and brother **Eddie**; request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Inc. G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at Laloma, Cemetery Manila on Tuesday August 31, 2004 at 2:00 p.m.

In Loving Memory

on the 11th Death Anniversary of

ROQUE "Tete" VAÑO ESCAÑO

of Malitbog, Leyte & Cagayan de Oro

who died in the Grace of our Lord on August 28, 1993.

Holy Masses will be offered today, Saturday, August 28, 2004 at the following churches:

GREENHILLS MEMORIAL PARK	4:00 p.m.
SAN VICENTE FERRER, Cugman	6:00 a.m.
SAN ISIDRO LABRADOR, Gusa	6:00 a.m.
OUR LADY OF FATIMA, Camaman-an	6:00 a.m.
SACRED HEART PARISH, Recto Avenue	5:30 p.m.
OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL, Carmen	6:00 a.m.
ST. AUGUSTINE CATHEDRAL	5:30 p.m.
SAN ANTONIO PARISH, Nazareth	6:00 a.m.
STO. NIÑO PARISH, Cogon	6:00 a.m.
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, Bulua	6:00 a.m.
CARMELITE MONASTERY, Camaman-an	6:00 a.m.
CARMELITE MONASTERY, Bukidnon	6:00 a.m.

The RIA (ROQUE, ISIDRO, ASUNCION) HOJAS ESCAÑO FOUNDATION, INC. Board of Trustees, Officers, and Staff, relatives and friends request the pious readers to remember ROQUE in their prayers.

Message of Thanks

We, the children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of the late

Modesto T. Cortez

January 15, 1915 – August 17, 2004

wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to our relatives and friends in Manila, Mandaluyong City, Concepcion, Tarlac, and USA who offered prayers, masses, sent flowers, donations, mass cards, e-mails/messages of sympathy, attended the masses and funeral rites, and expressed in more ways than one their concern and support during our moment of sorrow.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
— 2 Corinthians 5:8

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

AHMOUR B. ESTEBANLAR

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on July 20, 2004 wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who in countless ways condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

FR. TEODORO A. URRUTIA, S.J.,

was called home to the Lord on Thursday, 26 August 2004.

Wake : Oratory of St. Ignatius at Loyola House of Studies,
Ateneo de Manila University Campus, Loyola Heights, Q.C.
Concelebrated Mass every evening at 8:00 P.M.
Funeral Mass : at 2:30 P.M. on Sunday, 29 August
in the Oratory of St. Ignatius, Loyola House of Studies.
Interment : Sacred Heart Novitiate Cemetery, Novaliches, Q.C.
immediately after the Funeral Mass.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL

CLASSIFIEDS

2 twin expositions for OFW, SME families to be launched in radio program

TWO joint expositions for the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and small and medium entrepreneurs (SMEs) as well as their families will be launched in the special episode of TIRIS (acronym of Task Force against Illegal Recruitment and Investment Scams) this Saturday (August 21) at 3 p.m. over dzRJ 810 AM, it was announced yesterday by the Pamilyang OFW-SME Network Foundation, Inc. (POFW-SMENFI).

POFW-SMENFI president George A. Arriola said the projects to be launched are the Filipino Seafarers Family Expo and Forum 2004 back-to-back with Pamilyang OFWs-SMEs Housing and Home Essentials Trade Fair 2004 on Nov. 12-14 and the Pamilyang OFWs-SMEs Milestones 2004 back-to-back with Pamilyang OFWs-SMEs Food and Beverage Trade Fiar 2004 on Dec. 10-12 which will be both held at the Megatrade Hall 1 of the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

The OFW and SME families who would like to be a part of the program may contact Shirley Dacumos at the POFW-SMENFI Secretariat with tel. nos. 912-5803 and 437-1660 or the 24-hour text messaging hotline 0916-7421768.

HOTEL SOGO REWARDS GOOD COP

HOTEL Sogo, the leading and largest walk-in hotel in the country, honored the Mandaluyong policeman who single-handedly shot dead three armed bus robbers in Mandaluyong City, by rewarding him with P50, 000.

Hotel Sogo Vice President Gus Corpus personally handed the cash reward to SPO2 Charlito Corpuz in Dr. Victor Potenciano Hospital, together with Mandaluyong Mayor Boyet Gonzales, Vice Mayor Jessie Cruz, City Administrator Ernesto Victorino and Mandaluyong Chief of Police, Sr. Supt. Ericsson Velasquez.

Hotel Sogo is the first private company which rewarded SPO2 Corpuz for his valor and excellence as policeman. The hotel is known for giving rewards to its outstanding employees who especially demonstrate honesty, dedication and service. Sogo's management extends this generosity even outside its company. The hotel's management hopes that through this gesture extended to SPO2 Corpuz, other cops may emulate Corpuz' act of gallantry.

RA Form No 10.1 (LCRO)
Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province: Metro Manila
City/Municipality Taguig

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R A Act No 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that MA. NATIVIDAD F. MONSOD has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from "MARIA NATIVIDAD" to "MA. NATIVIDAD" in the birth certificate of MARIA NATIVIDAD who was born on October 19, 1963 at Taguig, Metro Manila and whose parents are Monico C. Monsod and Adoracion M. Flores

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than FIFTEEN (15) days upon publication.

(Sgd) EDILBERTO F. FACINABAO
City/Municipality Civil Registrar

(PDI - Aug. 21 & 28, 2004)

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on the shareholder's meeting of PT Brown Prima Indonesia held on January 23, 2004 at its head office in Jakarta Indonesia, all the shareholders have approved the sale of all their shares of the company Relative to this, any legitimate suppliers who may have unsettled collectables/ receivables from the company may write our accountant's/ auditor's office through Drs Bambang Sugeng at P.O. Box 7644 BDSE 40400, Bandung, Indonesia not later than fourteen (14) days from the publication date of this notice.
Philippines, 28 August 2004

(Sgd) GIL A. MARVILLA
Director

(PDI--Aug. 28, 2004)

Send your resumé instantly.
JOB MARKET
www.jobmarketonline.com

Alay Buhay Educational Foundation, Inc., an 18 -year old non-profit, non-stock organization is in need of the following:

- **Admin/HR Officer**
  - Psychology or humanities graduate
- **Finance Officer**
  - CPA, experience in Microfinance is an advantage
- **Community Development Workers**
  - Graduate of Social Work or Community Development,
  - at least 2 years experience in the same field and
  - willing to be assigned in the provinces

Interested applicants may send their resume to **alaybuhay@pacific.net.ph**

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on the shareholder's meeting of PT Brown Prima Indonesia held on January 23, 2004 at its head office in Jakarta, Indonesia, all the shareholders have approved the sale of all their shares of the company. Any parties having interest in and/ or objections to this sale, please contact in writing our accountant's/auditor's office through Drs. Bambang Sugeng at P.O. Box 7644 BDSE 40400, Bandung, Indonesia not later than fourteen (14) days from the publication date of this notice.
Philippines, 28 August 2004.

(Sgd.) GIL A. MARVILLA
Director

(PDI--Aug. 28, 2004)

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

'The Grand Century Tuna Feast'

TUNA seven times a week might seem avant garde, but if you had been following the resounding success of the Century Tuna Culinary Meet, then it might well be the rallying cry of the century.

The Century Tuna Culinary Meet 2003 was the talk of the health and fitness populace last year as it held its first consumer-based competition for residents of Greater Manila, spearheaded by Century Canning Corp at the SM Megatrade Hall 3.

The second extravaganza to follow this maiden venture is the Century Tuna Culinary Meet 2004. Dubbed the "Grand Century Tuna Feast," it promises to be an even bigger competition of original Century Tuna recipes, with divisions and categories open to all members of the family.

All grand finalists shall compete in an on-the-spot cooking contest on Aug. 28 and 29 at SM Megatrrade Hall 3.

The amateur division is comprised of the family meal category and the junior category. The former is open to two-member family teams (mother-daughter, husband-wife, brother-sister, etc) who must prepare an original Century Tuna Family Meal good for six persons composed of a vegetable dish, a choice of rice toppings, an oriental noodle or pasta, and a cold appetizer with sauce. The latter is open to high school students 13 to 16 years old and they must prepare an original Century Tuna recipe for bread toppings or sandwiches (hot or cold) that yields six servings.

The student division, on the other hand, is open to all students taking Hotel and Restaurant Management and other related or allied courses. Each team shall be composed of three members who will prepare an original Century Tuna buffet recipe good for 10 to 12 persons. The buffet must include two appetizers with one sauce of each, one salad with a dressing, and one entrée or main dish, with two sidings or three garnishes, and one sauce.

Grand prizes are at stake for this second offering of Century Tuna's Culinary Meet, including holiday packages to Boracay and Hong Kong.

Century Tuna is lining up more cooking events especially in the Greater Manila and Luzon Areas to fire up enthusiasm for this meat from the sea. For details, call the Century Tuna Culinary Club at 637-8974 or e-mail culinary@centurytuna.com.ph or Event Visions Inc at 848-1600/811-1720 or e-mail info@eventvisions.com.ph.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

INQUIRER RENEWS PARTNERSHIP WITH ATENEO DEBATE SOCIETY

The Philippine Daily Inquirer renews its partnership with the Ateneo Debate Society (ADS) for the 2nd Inquirer-2bU! Interschool Debating Championship (IISDC). Shown in photo at the recent MOA signing are IISDC marketing director Patricia Suzara, IISDC internal convenor Kristel Tiu, ADS president Eleanor Uy, Inquirer president and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez and Inquirer AVP for strategic marketing communications and IISDC external convenor Celine Madamba. IISDC aims to empower the youth by promoting reading and critical thinking through the art of debate. It will be held on Nov. 5 to 8. This is open to all high school students. For inquiries, email k.tiu@ateneodebatesociety.org.

INQUIRER WELCOMES GUESTS FROM PFIZER PHILS

The Philippine Daily Inquirer welcomed guests from Pfizer Philippines at a luncheon held recently. In photo are senior management executives of Inquirer and Pfizer, which include Pfizer president Gerry Bacarro and Inquirer president and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez.

New Modess for tight situations

IF YOU have your way, you'll forego squeezing yourself into jam-packed areas and tight situations like the daily rush-hour crowd - especially when you have your monthly period. Leaks or stains are not the only things you worry about. Forced to get too near other people, you wish you can take your mind off the fear that they can notice that distinct odor that comes with your monthly period. With new Modess with Odor Neutralizers, you definitely can.

To demonstrate this distinct benefit, Modess ladies roam around Metro Manila theaters and MRT stations, which are identified as areas where women are forced to squeeze tightly into the crowd. Modess ladies wore t-shirts bearing messages that reflect Modess' desire to encourage women to stay composed even as they go about their business in the most pressing situations during their monthly period.

The Modess ladies wear t-shirts that bear the message: "Siksikan? Okay lang!" as they squeeze their way in between commuters inside MRT cars. They give away Modess fans to select passengers. For cinemas, the Modess ladies' t-shirts bear the message "Pass with confidence" as they pass in between rows of seats inside theaters in Alabang Town Center and Glorietta 4.

Modess with Odor Neutralizers contains a natural extract that helps neutralize that unwanted odor within the pad. No longer will you feel conscious or tense about getting near other people especially when you are not given much choice - standing in public buses or trains, watching crowded movies, getting stuck inside elevators, going to full-house concerts, or even eating out with friends.

Now that there's new Modess with Odor Neutralizers, go ahead and do what you have to do whenever you find yourself in tight situations. After all, no situation should be too tight for a confident woman like you.

NDIC HOLDS APPRECIATION DINNER

Nouveau Direct Impact Corp (NDIC), under the management of Carol Roa, Heidi Reyes and Grace Monteir hosted an appreciation dinner for their nutrition counselors who are assigned to Abbott Phil, CDMD headed by Ni Amora, at the New World Hotel, Makati last Aug. 6. NDIC gave recognition of loyalty and excellence to nutrition counselors Charlotte Abe, Amelie Lopez, Rosas Rances, Lutchie Arriola, Jasmin Batalon and Rizza Lynn Vicedo. Shown in the picture are the nutrition counselors, NDIC and Abbott - CDMD management.

PHYSICIANS FOR PEACE DONATES TO PGH

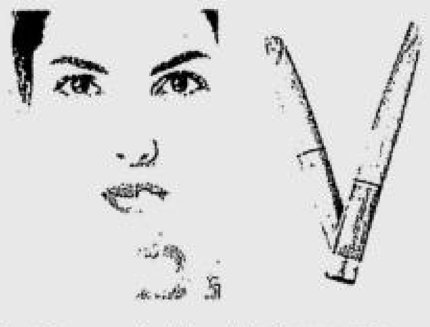
Physicians for Peace, a non-profit organization providing medical and education programs in 42 developing countries just recently donated medical equipment and supplies to the Philippine General Hospital. The PFP USA team lead by its trustee Dr. Juan Montero II; Dr. David Young, an orthopedic surgeon; Dr. Jim Gordon, an opthalmologist surgeon; Dr. Ron Hopkins, a prosthetist, and John Knight are shown with some patients at PGH during their brief visit. The team is on a Fact Find Mission for projects on prosthetic and rehabilitation center; setting up of Eye Bank in Cebu and PFP's Hospital Assistance Program in the Philippine Islands (Happi), providing medical equipment and supplies to hospitals in need and hospital ship in partnership with the Philippine Coastguard.

SM Ice Skating Team brings home the gold

THE SM Philippine Ice Skating Team with 43 skaters bagged the championship trophy of the Ice Skating Institute of America (Isia) World Championships held in Blaine Minneapolis Minnesota, USA last Aug. 2 to 7. The SM Philippine Team garnered a total of 90 gold, 62 silver and 26 bronze medals. It topped the 96 teams from 4 other countries namely UAE, Thailand, Mexico and USA which fielded ice skating teams from 24 states. The victory was a big blow to the home rink since 1959 when the Isia was founded, it never occurred to them that a rink coming from outside the USA and a tropical country at that would beat them in this recreational ice activity. This is the 11th time that SM sent a delegation to the Isia World's competition in the USA. The Filipino skaters aside from participating in the local competitions have regularly joined competitions in Asian countries in the past years. All the team members except one, learned their ice skating from the formal lessons offered at SM Megamall and SM Southmall ice skating rinks.

ProductFILES

New Lipfinity Everlites



MAX Factor presents Lipfinity Everlites, a new kind of lipstick which has a soft, subtle and light to the touch lip color that glides on to your lips like a conventional creamy lipstick, but has the staying power to last up to ten hours - even through eating and drinking. It's so light you'll hardly notice it's there, but thanks to its breakthrough technology, you can be confident to have beautiful lip color which lasts all day. As its name suggests, Lipfinity Everlites is part of the Lipfinity family, and it too delivers up to ten hours of gorgeous, glamour color; but where Lipfinity creates an intense, dramatic finish, Lipfinity Everlites comes in more subtle, silkier shades for a soft and understated beauty look. Max Factor is exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corp and Lipfinity Everlites is available in major department stores nationwide.

Maricel and Swift Juicy Corned Beef

IT IS a widely-known fact that Filipinos, young and old, seek juiciness, beefiness and taste in a corned beef. These are the true measures of what truly appeals to the Filipino palate. From this insight emerged a juicier and beefier Swift Juicy Corned Beef. The Diamond Star Maricel Soriano was surprised with the savory rich taste of Swift Juicy Corned Beef. Aside from thicker beef shreds, it's now even juicier. And made even more flavorful with taste enhancers and special seasonings.

Big Clips

Prex seminar

OUR Lady of Sorrows Parish Church along FB Harrison St. Pasay City invites all male/female, 20 years old and above, single/married to join the Parish Renewal Experience (Prex) seminar on Aug. 27 to 29 at CWL Bldg. The seminar will start at 7 p.m. For inquiries, call 831-8293.

Angel Sent Bazaar

THE MID-year Angel Sent Bazaar slated on Aug. 28 to 29 at the lower lobby of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel Mandaluyong offers shoppers not only low price and quality products but also works from charity, NGO and religious organizations. Exhibit time is 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Admission is free and the bazaar is open to the public. For details, call Philtrade Exhibits at 825-0804 or 825-3482.

DLS-Canlubang offers MBA

THE DE La Salle Professional Schools Inc Graduate School of Business (DLS PSI-GSB) announces the offering of the weekend Master of Business Administration (MBA) program in its sister school, De La Salle Canlubang (DLS-Canlubang), beginning September 2004, 2nd term of SY 2004-2005. Entrance examination and interview will be today. For more information, call Cels Dulatre (DLS PSI-GSB Manila) at 536-0286, 523-4295, email dulatre@dlsu.edu.ph; or Joel Yuviencio (DLS-Canlubang) at 67000-1111, 0916-753-5635, email mba@canlubangdlsu.edu.ph.

A tribute to teachers

DIWA Learning Systems will gather together around 5,000 teachers, administrators and friends from all over the country to pay tribute to exemplary educators on Aug. 28 at the PICC. Registration starts at 6:30 a.m. amd program proper starts at 8 a.m. Participants may register at www.diwa.ph, fax at 817-8700, tel. no. 893-8501, email at tribute@diwamall.com.ph or through Diwa Learning Systems specialists assigned in their respective schools.

English-Filipino Rules of Court book launching

VICE President Noli de Castro will be the guest of honor and speaker at the book launching of the "English-Filipino Revised Rules on Civil Procedures (Rules 1 to 71, Rules of Court, Effective Dec. 1, 2000)" to be held on Aug. 30, 4 p.m. at the UP College of Law, Diliman Quezon City. Incumbent and retired Supreme Court and Court of Appeals justices, Metro Manila Court judges, deans of Law Schools and officers of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, have been invited to attend the book launching.

'ROUND-TABLE' DISCUSSION

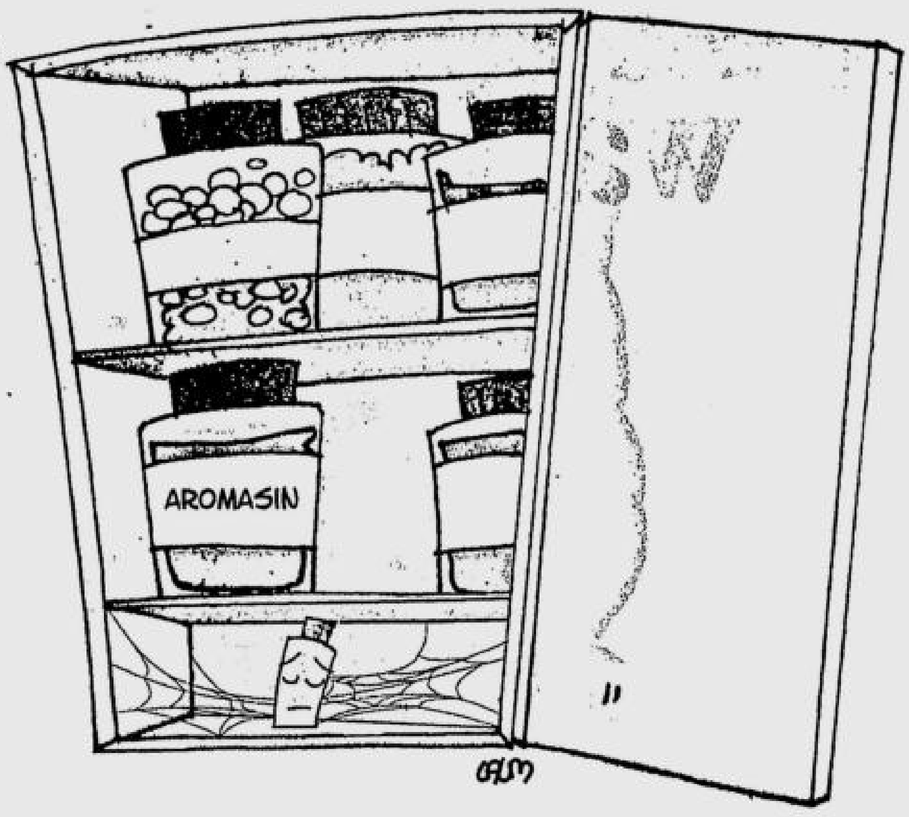
Recently, Avanza and Data Ventures held a media luncheon for a 'Round-Table' discussion on how to achieve accelerated, profitable and sustainable sales in the modern retail business. Customer Capture Solution is a suite of solutions for the modern trade using the retail outlets' POS (point-of-sales) system. This revolutionary solution is available in the Philippines (and Asia) through the strategic partnership of Avanza and Data Ventures. Shown are (from left) Yayu Javier, country manager of Avanza Inc; Manolo Aquino, president of Avanza Inc and Terry Montgomery, president of Data Ventures LLC.

A BON VOYAGE FOR PHILHARBOR'S NEWEST VESSEL

M/V Maharlika Siete recently sailed in her maiden voyage to cap another successful enterprise for Philharbor Ferries and Port Services Inc. Destined to ply the Roxas, Oriental Mindoro-Caticlan route, Maharlika Siete is expected to significantly boost Philharbor's roll-on, roll-off operations, or what is commonly referred to as Roro. For inquiries about Maharlika Siete, contact Philharbor at 775-0441 to 42. Photo shows (from left) Christopher Pastrana, president and CEO, Philharbor Ferries and Port Services Inc; Agustin Bengson, DOTC Undesecretary; Admiral Gosingan, Assistant Secretary Anne Lontoc, LTO; Rodolfo Ibuna, Prudential Customs Brokerage; Anne Pastrana, EVP, Philharbor Ferries and Port Services Inc; Secretary Marita Jimenez, Presidential Priority Project Overseas Development Assistance Program; Governor Florencio Miraflores, Aklan; Assistant Secretary Len Bautista, LTFRB.

New breast cancer drug better than standard cure, says study

By Charles E. Buban



A NEW drug that is more effective in preventing the recurrence of breast cancer in women could overshadow tamoxifen, the celebrated drug credited with slashing breast cancer death rates worldwide.

A large international study of postmenopausal women with early-stage cancer whose tumors were caught early (and removed) found that those who took tamoxifen for two-and-a-half years and then switched to exemestane (manufactured by Pfizer under the brand name Aromasin) for another two-and-a-half years were one-third less likely to suffer a recurrence than those who remained on tamoxifen.

The study also found that women switching to exemestane were 56 percent less likely to get cancer in the other breast, were half as likely to develop unrelated cancers in other parts of the body and had less-serious side effects.

"Although it is too early to say whether this trial will show improved overall survival for women who took it, the drug is definitely good news for doctors treating this leading cancer in women," said Dr. Antonio Villalon, a consultant medical oncologist at the Manila Doctors Hospital.

According to data from the Department of Health and the Philippine Cancer Society, breast cancer afflicts some 8,000 women every year in the Philippines and is the leading cancer site in women, constituting 27 percent of all cancers (followed by the cervix and ovary).

2 drugs compared

Exemestane, which became available in the market in 2003 for advanced breast cancer, is an agent that neutralizes the effect of estrogen on cancerous breast tissue.

Dr. Villalon explained that tamoxifen and exemestane both block estrogen, the female hormone that influences the growth of breast tumors (hormone receptor-positive breast cancer).

"But the drugs work in different ways: tamoxifen interferes with the ability of breast cancer cells to use estrogen for growth, whereas exemestane interferes with the body's ability to produce estrogen," he said.

The study found that exemestane, when compared to tamoxifen, was well-tolerated, and had fewer incidences of cardiovascular problems and hot flashes commonly encountered in tamoxifen.

Villalon said the new drug has to be studied further before doctors can judge if switching to exemestane would bring overall benefit.

Tamoxifen has been the standard agent used for hormonal therapy in breast cancer.

Tamoxifen first came into widespread use in the 1970s for women who had metastatic breast cancer, where the disease had spread to other parts of the body.

"Early-stage breast cancer in which the cancer has not spread from its site of origin has a high cure rate with this standard therapy," said Villalon.

After surgery for breast cancer, women usually take tamoxifen for five years to reduce the risk that the disease will recur. However, tamoxifen does not prevent all recurrences, and breast cancer cells can become resistant to the medicine.

Pfizer said the results of the study marked a step forward in the evolution of breast cancer treatment. It announced it was reinforcing its commitment to further support the development and research of new cancer drugs, as well as to the continuing education of the medical and allied-medical profession involved with cancer care.

Pfizer is currently monitoring a compound it had developed and which has shown promise in early clinical trials in treating hard-to-treat resistant cancers, including gastrointestinal stromal tumor and metastatic renal cell carcinoma, an advanced form of kidney cancer.

The compound, SU 11248, will be tested in other types of tumors later this year.

Math in trading

(Second of three parts)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

LAST week we looked at Travis Chua's comments on math in trading. After looking at human biases and trader emotions, we now go into specific details:

I hope you will delve a bit into the mathematics of trading. What are your thoughts on Fundamental and Technical Indicators? According to Van Tharp, the markets have elements of randomness, but that does not make them random. Do you agree?

You have to realize that mathematical finance uses math tools to make sense of financial issues, including the ones you raised above. Math is not the answer, if the data are unsound, then no amount of math will yield valid conclusions. That said, math has simplified and made it possible to see patterns, such as trends.

As I am sure you are aware, fundamental indicators include traditional ones such as company financial statements and annual or even quarterly reports, which can be perused to determine the strength, growth prospects, and so forth to help the trader and investor determine whether the stock price is overvalued, undervalued, or just right.

In basic finance, ratios such as working capital, debt-equity, return on equity are derived from balance sheets or income statements. Fundamental indicators also include the political and economic environment of the company, and perhaps current news developments, such as the perceived capabilities of leading presidential candidates.

Reliable documents

Financial mathematicians definitely rely on fundamental indicators, especially to advise long-term investors. Nothing can replace a reliable balance sheet or annual report. If the financial statements are falsified (as what happened in Enron), please do not blame the math. The only shortcoming of fundamental indicators, if you even think of it as a liability, is that they require research and cover a huge time frame, which may not be suitable for the day-to-day vagaries of trading.

Traders rely on technical indicators such as trend lines, charts, and moving averages to analyze daily movements in stock price and investigate trading trends. But these all assume that the market is not random, a point which is still being debated by traders and mathematicians alike. (One theory is that the market may not be totally random, but is chaotic. Read James Gleick's excellent book "Chaos" for a primer on chaos theory.)

If we assume that things are not random, then yes, according to Alvaro Oliviera of Turtletrader, technical indicators can be used well: "The basic foundations or premises of technical analysis are that a stock's current price discounts all information available in the market, that price movements are not random, and that patterns in price movements, in very many cases, tend to repeat themselves or trend in some direction."

Furthermore, to quote Bob Prechter, an advocate of technical analysis, "The main problem with fundamental analysis is that its indicators are removed from the market itself. The analyst assumes causality between external events and market movements, a concept which is almost certainly false.

"But, just as important, and less recognized, is that fundamental analysis almost always requires a forecast of the fundamental data itself before conclusions about the market are drawn. The analyst is then forced to take a second step in coming to a conclusion about how those forecasted events will affect the markets! Technicians only have one step to take, which gives them an edge right off the bat. Their main advantage is that they don't have to forecast their indicators."

Are the ideas above mathematically sound? Yes, but again, make sure that the assumptions are in place and that the goal (long-term, short-term, trading, investing) is crystal-clear before choosing which indicators to look at. Common sense tells us though that traders should rely on both fundamental and technical indicators.

ASK THE DENTIST

Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Spaces between front teeth

MY SON lost his front tooth at 4 when he fell. Should he have it replaced until the permanent tooth comes in?—Erlinda G.

Your son's tooth is okay as it is. Space maintainers are only for the back teeth if the baby molars are lost prematurely. The baby front teeth are not that critical because as children get older, the front of their jaw gets bigger and more spaces are created whether or not there are baby teeth present.

E-mail your questions at dentalqs@yahoo.com.

SCISCOPE

Intel Philippines Science Fair opens

THE SCIENCE Education Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (SEI-DOST) and the Department of Education (DepEd) announced the kick off of the Intel Philippine Science Fair (Intel PSF).

With the theme "Exploring Genius," Intel PSF is an annual nationwide competition among high school students aimed at promoting science and technology interests among the youth through research projects.

Winners of the Intel-PSF will represent the country in the Intel Science and Engineering Fair (Intel Isef), slated in Phoenix, Arizona, in May 2005. The Intel Isef is the world's largest precollege science and engineering fair showcasing the most promising young scientists and inventors.

The Intel PSF will start from the division level (beginning the second week of October), progressing to regional (Dec. 7-8) and to the national levels (Feb. 15-17, 2005). Entries will be categorized into individual and team projects to promote the values of personal excellence as well as teamwork.

Hope for patients with rheumatoid arthritis

IN ASIA, rheumatoid arthritis (RA) affects around 0.3 percent of the general population. It is characterized by inflammation of multiple joints, cartilage loss and bone erosion, which leads to joint destruction and ultimately reduced joint function.

Methotrexate is the current standard of care for rheumatoid arthritis cases.

At the 2004 annual congress of the European League Against Rheumatism, six-month results of a trial using rituximab (a monoclonal antibody) to treat 161 patients with resistant rheumatoid arthritis were presented. The study showed patients receiving rituximab had a marked improvement in their symptoms and the drug was both effective and well-tolerated.

There was also prolonged clinical response in the patients, who continue to be followed up for a further 18 months.

Rituximab is a novel approach to the treatment of RA in that it targets B cells, which are believed to play a critical role in the development of this disease. It has also been extensively studied for treating lymphoma and is now available in the Philippines.

Treatment guidelines not absolute must-dos

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

MUNICH, Germany—Currently ongoing until Sept. 1 is the annual convention of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) with an attendance of more than 20,000 heart specialists and scientists from all over the world. Participants have to sprint from one meeting room to another in this city's huge convention center to try to get the salient reports in scientific sessions which are being conducted simultaneously. If one could only be in several places at the same time, that would solve many participants' dilemma of which session to attend.

The ESC has always been an excellent source of treatment guidelines. These guidelines recommend to clinicians standards of treatment for specific disease entities based on available scientific evidence. Hence, they are called evidence-based guidelines.

Preparations of treatment guidelines is a tedious process. Scores of experts on a particular medical problem, say, hypertension or hypercholesterolemia, conduct countless meetings, synthesizing all relevant scientific information including the results of the landmark clinical researches. From these new data, the group drafts a concise set of recommendations on how to treat all sorts of patients with that particular problem, and given all types of clinical scenarios.

Keeping updated

Cardiovascular medicine is a very dynamic field and we're literally getting an avalanche of paradigm-shifting clinical data. New scientific information, hence, new guidelines, come as quickly as new models for digital cameras and computers.

Doctors have no choice but to keep on updating lest they suffer from medical obsolescence. What may have been true a decade ago, may be astonishingly false now. Medications which were supposed to be contraindicated for a certain disease may have been shown by recent information to be actually beneficial.

This is also why most medical organizations have a continuing medical education program, which encourages members who attend foreign medical conventions to echo and cascade whatever they've learned from the convention to their colleagues back home, especially those practicing in the provinces. The local medical society sometimes reviews the foreign guidelines and attunes them to the local setting.

Recommended treatments only

One problem with treatment guidelines, however, is that some doctors follow them sacredly as if they're taken from the Bible. Truth is, these guidelines—as the term implies—only serve as guides and are not must-do algorithms on treatment of each and every patient. They are the recommended treatments for the majority of cases but may not be the proper treatment for some cases.

Some doctors have expressed apprehension that with the increasing number of medical malpractice suits, these guidelines might be taken as absolute bases on how every case must be treated, and deviation from such might be interpreted by our courts as a ground for malpractice.

This is definitely not the spirit of the treatment guidelines, and in no way should it straight-jacket a physician in determining the best possible treatment for a particular case that he may be confronted with.

If the guidelines were absolute recommendations, then there would be no need for physicians. Even nurses, pharmacists and even nonmedical professionals can start treating medical cases. They just have to read the treatment guidelines, look up the doses of the drugs, and make the prescription for the patient.

It's not that simple though. There is still a big gap between interpreting the guidelines and applying that to a particular patient with medical problems which are not exactly the same as those described in the guidelines.

A thorough assessment of the patient and making the right decisions as to the proper treatment requires stringent training, which the average physician has undergone. So despite all the available treatment guidelines which can even be accessed in the Internet, the physician will never be dispensable. And that is reassuring.

Male baldness may be treated medically, say ProHair advocates

MALE pattern hair loss (MPHL) is not just a cosmetic concern but a medical problem that should be treated as such, according to ProHair advocates.

ProHair is an information advocacy established by pharmaceutical company Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) in collaboration with the Philippine Dermatological Society. It aims to promote awareness on the science behind MPHL, highlighting the fact that male pattern hair loss is a medical concern, which should be addressed medically and scientifically.

Most common form

MPHL or androgenetic alopecia is the most common form of hair loss. The condition is influenced by heredity, the male hormone (androgen) and age.

Men who suffer from or are genetically predisposed to MPHL may opt to use prescription drugs, which are either applied topically or taken orally, according to Dr. Gio Dimayuga, a skin and hair medical expert who spoke during the recent ProHair media forum at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

Topical solutions may stop hair loss in some users with varying results. Continued use and application is required to maintain the benefits of topical solutions. "However, some people may find topical solutions to be inconvenient and messy," said Dimayuga.

An oral drug for the treatment of male pattern hair loss is also available. This particular medicine, a proven oral treatment for hair loss, is designed to inhibit the production of dihydrotestosterone (DHT). DHT has been found to be a culprit in male pattern hair loss. Studies have shown that using this medicine in MPHL can avert further hair loss and help prevent severe baldness, Dimayuga explained.

Onset of baldness

According to Dimayuga, the age of 30 is a crucial and ambivalent period in men's lives. "Not only is the third decade of life the time when men are reaching the peak of their careers and gaining financial stability, it is also the period when the onset of baldness is likely to occur."

PDS president Dr. Francisca Roa gave the welcome remarks during the media forum. "Dermatologists must lead efforts in providing professional knowledge and information about hair loss and make patients aware that hair loss is a medical condition that can be addressed by medical experts," Roa stressed.

MSD corporate affairs director Christine Liwanag expounded on results of relevant research the pharmaceutical company conducted.

"An Assessment of the MPHL Market" aimed to determine the incidence of seekers/nonseekers of treatments for MPHL and assess the attitudes, beliefs, knowledge and experience of patients in relation to the condition.

The study involved 100 men aged 18 to 50 from the Greater Manila Area and Metro Cebu.

"Respondents who were very bothered or affected by their hair loss said they were primarily worried because their condition was affecting their personality and confidence," Liwanag explained.

Scientifically proven treatments are now available and men with MPHL may prevent further progression, according to ProHair. The advocacy program recommends affected men make an appointment with a dermatologist for a hair loss evaluation.

Men who enroll in the ProHair program will receive up-to-date information on MPHL and medical news, as well as invitation to special events related to the advocacy program.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Text us your feedback: inquirer hea name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

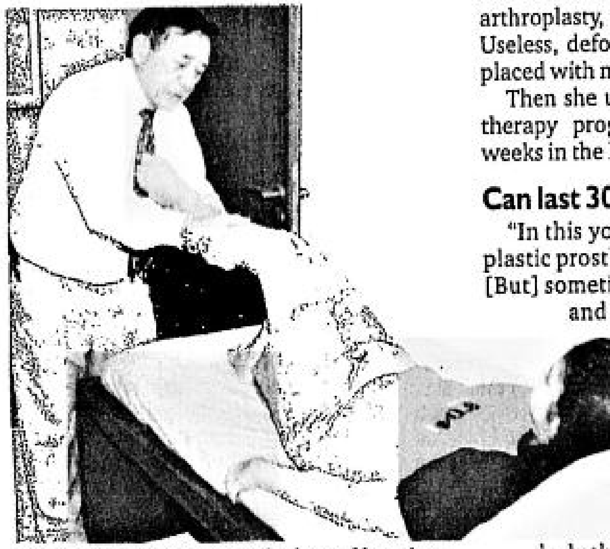
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

Thanks to implant surgery this woman can walk again

By Tessa R. Salazar

Jasmine Manoloto, 22, is now smiling and walking. Her condition has improved a lot compared to seven months ago when the INQUIRER saw her writhing in pain as she was being transferred from her hospital bed at the Makati Medical Center to her wheelchair, where she was limited to for the next six months. She was then recovering from an artificial implant surgery.

Jasmine's hips and knees had been extensively deformed by rheumatoid arthritis. Because of this, she had stopped schooling. She was supposed to be on her second year in college taking up computer studies.



DR. GUSTILO massages the legs of Jasmine. ROGER MARGALLO

She was 16 when she first noticed her knees stiffening. It was followed by her hips and her hands. Unaware of what condition she had, she just bore the increasing pain and stiffness for the next six years.

When Jasmine could no longer walk, she had no choice but to seek a specialist's help.

Extensive damage

It was orthopedic surgeon Dr. Ramon Gustilo of the Orthopedic Institute and the Makati Medical Center who took interest in Jasmine's case. The damage wrought by the disease on Jasmine's body was already extensive, involving multiple joints, knees and hips.

"Fixing" Jasmine's problem meant she had to undergo a tedious, step-by-step surgical and rehabilitative process.

On Dec. 6, Jasmine's hips were replaced with artificial implants. On Dec. 15, she underwent another operation, called total knee arthroplasty, to replace her afflicted knees. Useless, deformed bones and joints were replaced with metals and plastics.

Then she underwent an intensive physical therapy program. She stayed three more weeks in the hospital.

Can last 30-40 years

"In this young patient, we are hoping the plastic prostheses would last 30 or 40 years. [But] sometimes these plastics can wear out and will have to be replaced. But that's common only in very active patients," Gustilo said.

Jasmine, he said, cannot be very active anymore because the disease had already deformed other joints, particularly the fingers, beyond repair.

Nevertheless, Gustilo and his team were already able to significantly improve Jasmine's condition. She can now get up and walk without pain.

"She'll be fine as long as she continues her exercise program. I advised her not to gain weight because it has been shown that if one is overweight, he or she can wear out the plastic faster because the load to the joints is greater," said Gustilo.

Treatment

The cause of rheumatoid arthritis is unknown.

In 100 rheumatoid arthritis patients, one-third will get better without treatment, one-third will stay in the same condition, and one-third will progress to a worse condition.

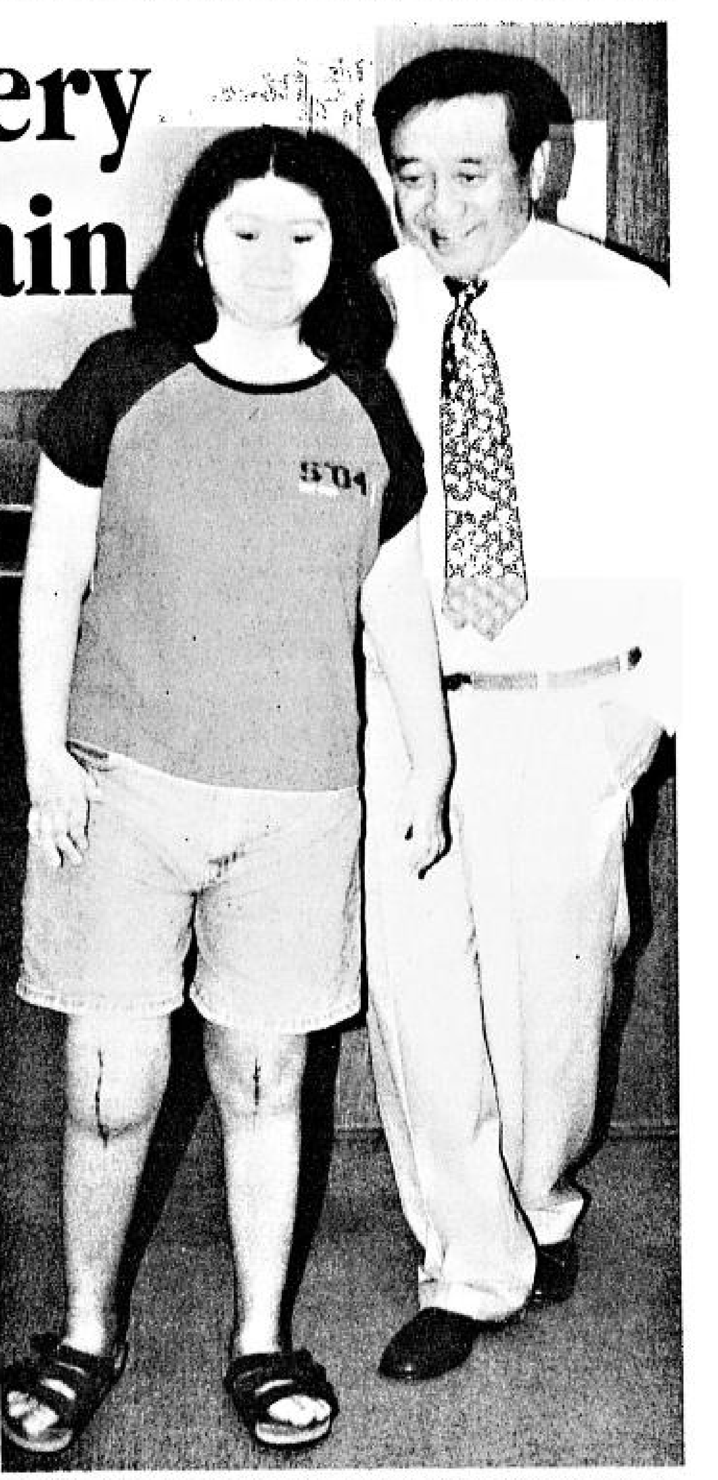
So far, there's no known treatment for rheumatoid arthritis. A drug called Embril has shown promise, especially in children in the United States, but it is expensive.

As for joint replacement, Gustilo said the cost of one knee replacement or one hip replacement in a private hospital would cost about P300,000. The hospital bills, the doctors' fees, and therapy would probably cost an additional P250,000 to P300,000.

With the four replacements done on her hips and knees, Jasmine could have easily spent over a million pesos.

But Jasmine was blessed with good Samaritans during her ordeal. Gustilo offered his services for free. An implant manufacturing company donated the implants. The professional fees of the four surgeons and anesthesiologists were waived. The Orthopedic Innovation Foundation and the charity program of the Makati Medical Center helped out.

Jasmine still waits for the day when technology would enable her to use her fingers normally. For now, she is content to stand up, walk and smile.



JASMINE Manaloto walks following an implant surgery by Dr. Ramon Gustilo. Note the surgical stitches on her knees. ROGER MARGALLO

Freezer-burned

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

THIS WEEK Sharp announced the development of a steam oven that, according to their press release, "bathes food in a spray of superheated steam to provide low-calorie cooking as well as removing fat and salt from foods."

I gather from this description that it works like a George Foreman grill (but looks like a toaster oven), will turn your tapa back into moist and succulent beef, and can probably cook siomai, too. And did I mention that you can reheat tempura in this oven and get a crispy crust?

Bear in mind though that the steam oven will not be cheap when it goes on the market in Japan on Sept. 1, although the price may go down when sales go worldwide later on.

I bring this up because the Sharp oven's image of fat melting off the food and into the unit is reminiscent of last week's kitchen disaster when my refrigerator died. No one's really sure when it happened; one night it was working fine and two mornings later the ice cream had melted and lines of sticky red meat juices had trickled down the inner walls of the refrigerator section from the freezer.

Apparently the self-defrosting mechanism malfunctioned, and instead of temporarily raising the temperature inside the freezer by just a few degrees to melt ice on the inside walls without thawing the frozen foods, the refrigerator went into full defrost mode.

In case you were wondering, when you open your freezer, do you have a thick layer of frosted ice on the inside of your walls that you hack off with a knife and feed to overheated dogs? If your refrigerator has an automatic ice maker and you find the ice cubes have clumped together, chances are you have a self-defrosting refrigerator.

Salsa kills salmonella?

I suggested having a barbecue to use up all the thawed meat. After all, the meat had been in the freezer which was still keeping it cold, and the high heat would kill any bacteria that had formed.

But no one was sure just how long the meat had been thawing, and bacteria like salmonella thrive under conditions that don't include extreme heat or cold. It also didn't help to find that the milk had turned into a lumpy mass, which suggested that the refrigerator hadn't been working for a very long time.

So I lost my chance at a Mexican-themed barbecue with plenty of salsa and spicy dishes, all based on the notion that salsa kills salmonella bacteria. At least, that's what Isao Kubo says in the June 2 issue of the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry.

Dr. Kubo is a chemist at the University of California at Berkeley, and according to the official website, his lab works on identifying the antimicrobial activity of natural products.

Salmonella is a type of bacteria that can cause food poisoning and various degrees of upset stomach, depending on how much of the contaminated food was ingested.

Preventing food poisoning calls for food to be prepared under specific conditions. Eggs and meat, for example, should not be eaten raw or undercooked. Food preparers have to wash their hands before touching uncooked food and not use the same chopping board for raw meat and vegetables.

Natural antibacterial

Previous studies have shown that several ingredients in spicy foods contain natural antibacterial compounds that help preserve food and prevent illnesses. Working with colleagues at UCB and the Autonomous University of Guadalajara at Mexico, Kubo et al. found that the leaves and seeds of cilantro contain a naturally tasteless, antibacterial compound called dodecenal.

They also found that in its pure form, dodecenal kills twice as many bacteria as gentamicin, the most commonly used antibiotic treatment for food poisoning.

The bad news: dodecenal is found in such low levels in cilantro that if you ate a bacteria-laden hotdog, you'd have to eat the hotdog's weight in cilantro to combat the food poisoning.

Still, researchers are hoping that dodecenal will eventually appear on most food labels as a protective food additive.

As I had no desire to eat equal amounts of meat and cilantro, both the refrigerator and most of the food in it were thrown away. (The candy bars with intact wrappers were saved.) The refrigerator has since been replaced and several shopping trips have restored the food, although not in the same quantity as before just in case this happens again. If it does, and if I catch it within the first few hours of meltdown, I've got bamboo skewers, salsa and plenty of hot sauce waiting.

KIDS' QUIZ

Housekeeping made easier

WE sometimes grumble about having to do household chores but they are unavoidable, too. Get to know the pioneers of some of your household devices—people who've made it simpler for us to clean that sofa or do the laundry. Match the name of the household device on the left with the name of its inventor on the right.

Dianne M. Villafuerte

Household device	Inventor
1. washing machine	a) Ives McGaffey
2. vacuum cleaner	b) John Gorrie
3. dust pan	c) George T. Sampson
4. clothes dryer	d) John Walker
5. lawn mower	e) Murray Spangler
6. refrigerator	f) Josephine Cochran
7. electric iron	g) Sarah Boone
8. ironing board	h) Lloyd Ray
9. dishwasher	i) Henry W. Seely
10. floor polisher	j) James King
	k) Edwin Beard Budding

ANSWERS to last week's quiz: 1-i, 2-c, 3-b, 4-f, 5-k, 6-a, 7-d, 8-j, 9-e, 10-g

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Gene tweaking turns mice into racers

ALTERING a single gene turned ordinary mice into marathon racers that could run for hours and eat huge amounts of food without getting fat, a team of researchers reported on Monday.

They said their study could lead to an exercise pill that gives many of the benefits of training without the need to sweat.

"It is a pill that, in part, mimics exercise. It mimics the metabolic activity associated with exercise," said Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator Ronald Evans of The Salk Institute for Biological Studies, who led the study.

Master regulator gene

Evans and a team of researchers were looking at a gene called PPAR-delta, a master regulator of different genes.

Revving up PPAR-delta had been shown to help raise metabolism and fat-burning, Evans said. "Part of our goal is the development of treatments for metabolic disease, diabetes and obesity," he said.

Writing in the journal Public Library of Science Biology, Evans and colleagues said they tweaked the PPAR-delta gene to stay in a permanently "on" position and then genetically engineered mice with it.

They expected to see changes in metabolism but were surprised at how extensive they were. The genetically engineered mice could run for an hour longer than normal mice, "which translates to nearly a kilometer further," the researchers wrote.

And when fed a high-fat diet, the normal mice became fat while the genetically altered mice gained no weight. Tests showed they were burning off the fat even when they did not exercise, Evans said.

"They are both good runners and they don't gain weight easily," Evans said.

The mice grew more slow-twitch muscle fibers—the kind used by the body for endurance-type exercise, as opposed to the fast-twitch muscles used for sprinting.

Evans said he was still studying the mice which are now about 9 months old.

"One of the questions for the future is studying the impact this has on longevity," he said. "So far, there are no side effects other than that they are resistant to weight gain. They are fertile and they are able to give rise to the next generation of long-distance runners."

Exercise pill possible

Other studies have led researchers to believe an "exercise pill" is possible. In 2002, researchers published a study in the journal Science showing that increasing production of an enzyme called calmodulin-dependent protein kinase or CaMK could have similar effects.

"There are several studies that have reported fiber-type switches," Evans said. "What is different about this one is we looked at what the consequences of that fiber-type switch are."

While Evans and colleagues used genetic manipulation, they said using a pill to create a similar effect is already possible.

They gave normal mice an experimental drug called GW501516 that also activates PPAR-delta. The drug is being developed by GlaxoSmithKline to treat people with fat metabolism disorders.

Reuters

A genetically engineered mouse runs a treadmill at The Salk Institute for Biological Studies in San Diego. AP

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The Hemline Theory

Can we fathom the state of the economy by the length of women's skirts?

By Marge C. Enriquez

PRESIDENT Arroyo's rhetoric on a fiscal crisis and calls for government budget cuts sent the stock market fluctuating and made people more anxious of further financial restrictions. Is this why hemlines have fallen below the knees after months of the mini's reign in local magazines and runways?

The Hemline Theory is a cheeky supposition about publicly traded stocks being dictated on by the whims of fashion. In the 1920s, an economist from Wharton expounded on a presumption that there was a link between hemlines and the economy. It was triggered by his fascination for watching women wearing shorter skirts to show off expensive stockings, which he took as an indication of disposable income. The theory states that short skirts are a bullish sign that the stock market is upbeat; longer skirts are a bearish sign of the opposite.

Fashion observers note coincidences that bear out the theory. In the 1960s, the notion was spot-on when the mini shook the fashion scene. When the world experienced an oil crisis in the early '70s, a debate raged about the mini, midi and maxi. At the time, the Philippines was also reeling under extravagant spending of government resources by President Marcos. Skirts were long and biased. But local retailers attributed this to the Biggie look, not to pressures from the International Monetary Fund.

In the '80s, Power Dressing heralded the comeback of the mini in a scenario of world stock market growth. However, the October 1987 stock market crash sank spirits once more. That was the same year that Bill Blass said the mini was irrelevant.

Looking back on recent history, from 1983 to 1986—when the economy took a nosedive after the Ninoy Aqunio assassination—skirts resumed length. After Edsa 1, the economic outlook was bright. Mini and the pouf skirts crowded the runways and stores. In the early '90s, the country got mixed signals. Malls were sprouting and the central business district was alive. On the other hand, media was accusing the government of a lack of economic strategy. Skirt lengths dropped again.

Consumer attitudes

In America, shorter skirts and brighter colors currently dominate the runways despite a sluggish economy. Early this year Women's Wear Daily reported that Taubman Centers Inc., the real estate investment trust, had been compiling consumer attitude towards hemlines. The trade paper quoted a report that said the US economy looked hopeful. Sixty-three percent of respondents predicted that skirts were about to rise above the knee. By coincidence, the Dow Jones Industrial Average jumped 124 points to the highest level in 32 months last January, and magazines have been showing a lot of gam.

Philippine ready-to-wear designers take the Hemline Theory in stride. They give customers the option by producing clothes with varying hemlines. Although the mini sells in certain periods, the hard-nosed consumer has always considered a classic length that covers the knee as the better investment. Is this in keeping with the perennial austerity measures that the country takes? They observe that in tough times, consumers tend to be less experimental. Trendy clothes and bold prints don't move as quickly as basic designs and neutral colors.

Gina Yupangco of Herbench points out that the hemline's downward trend merely coincides with news of inflation and financial crisis, and the government's belt-tightening moves. In other words, she says, the hemline should not be an economic indicator. Being fashion-conscious, Filipinas will wear short skirts if it's the trend in the West, Yupangco says. But as a rule, she adds, the upmarket may be more adventurous, but the jeepney-riding consumer will eschew the mini.

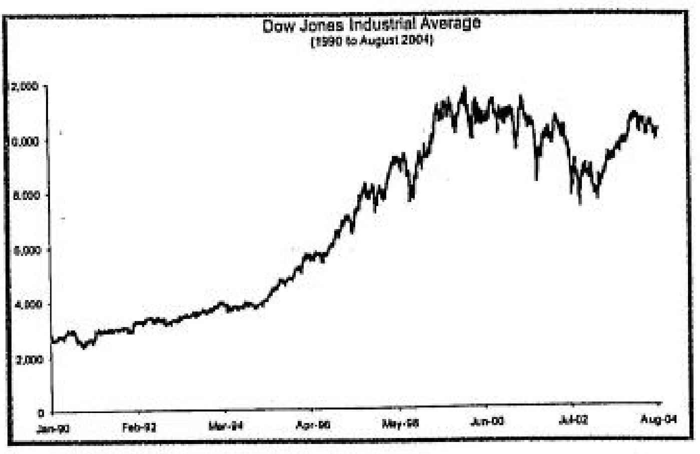
Welcome options

"Filipinas don't have the knees and the legs of Western women," says **Rina Go** of Viseversa. In the years she's been into retail from the late '80s, her market has been noncommittal about length. "They rarely wear skirts because they don't want to wear stockings. They wear fitted pants to show off the silhouette they've worked hard for from Pilates or badminton."

Lya Armovit offers her clients several options—mini, mid-calf and ankle length. In her 13 years in retail, she witnessed the era when Asia was a tiger economy, until it was caught in the 1998 meltdown. Compared to its neighbors, economists believe, the Philippines was less severely affected. And despite economic ups-and-downs, Armovit's, and her customers', hemline of choice have remained constant: mid-calf length.

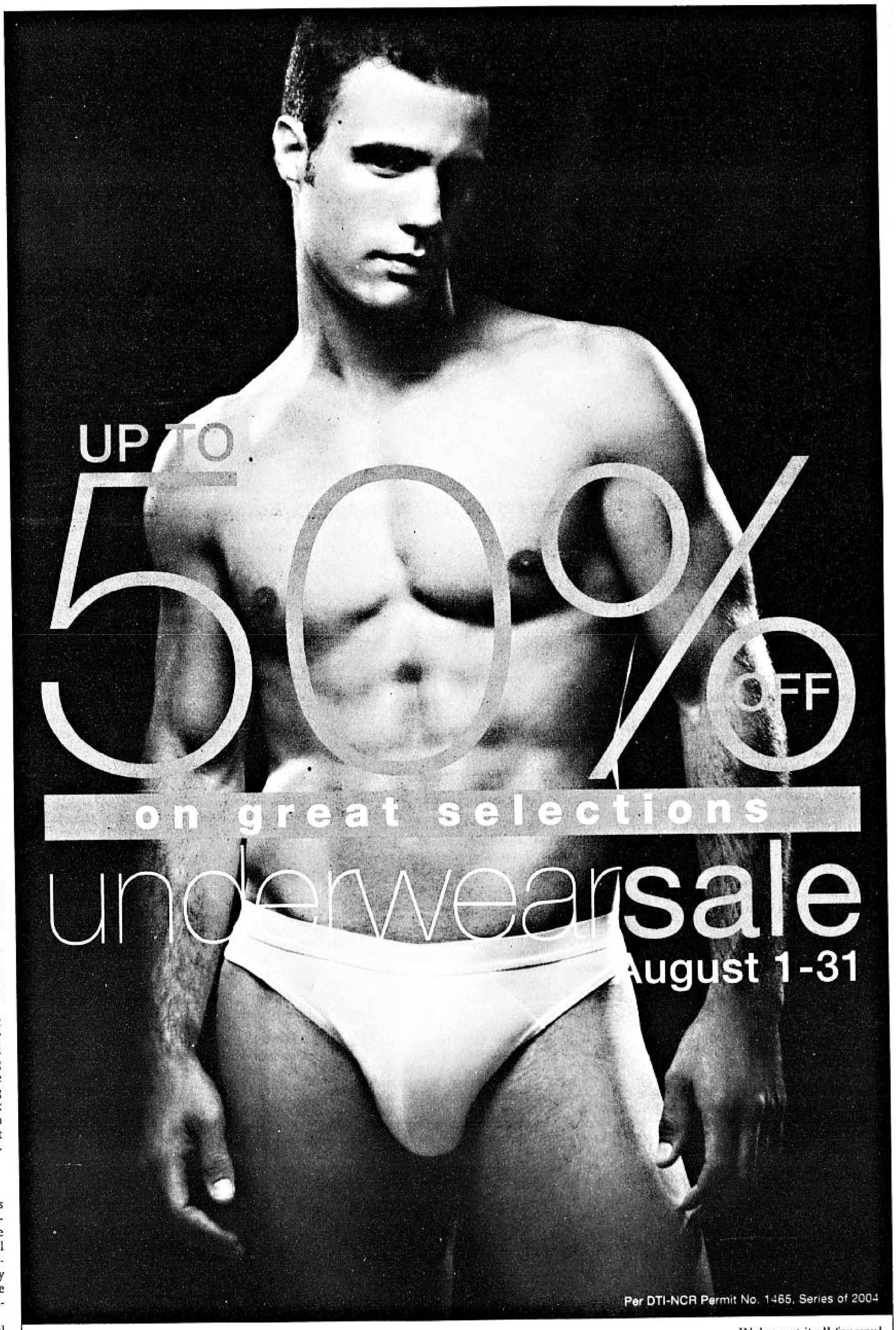
Armovit creates a style in two versions and the longer one always goes first. "It's harder to sell the short ones," she says. "Maybe the long skirts make women look longer. For short skirts, you need skinny legs." Even when she uses linen, the long skirt with slits sells faster than the mini version, she observes. "That's

THE HEMLINE/ C3



HEMLINE vs The Dow. America is optimistic with the Dow Jones up. Michael Kors offers the mini for his fall collection.

BELOW-the-knee length is a constant for the average Filipina.



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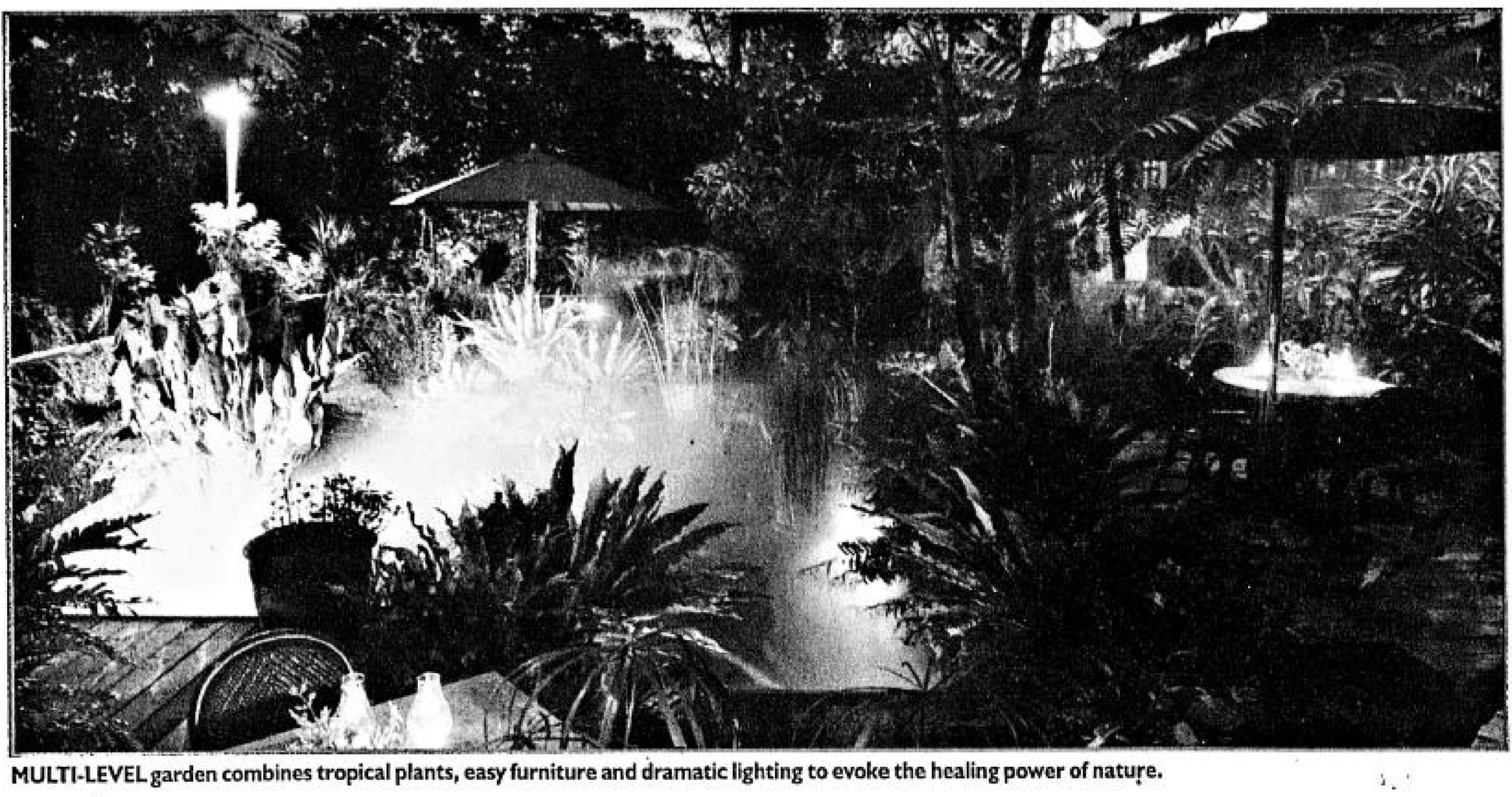


MULTI-LEVEL garden combines tropical plants, easy furniture and dramatic lighting to evoke the healing power of nature.

ESCALANTE. The southern gentleman's uncompromising ways are often mistaken for snobbery.

DINING room recalls a typical Negrense household—antique furniture, floors with wide planks, crystals, classic table setting.

GARDEN setting shows Escalante's choice of linens, flatware and silverware as influenced by his Negrense upbringing.

THE WARM tones, the sensuality of wood, the profusion of foliage, lamps and mementos, create a relaxed, romantic look.

Heed the call, and don't look back

Gentleman chef Tonyboy Escalante discusses his philosophy of prosperity

By Teodoro Y. Montelibano
Contributor
Photos by Bobot Meru

HAD Antonio "Tonyboy" Montilla Escalante listened to family counsel, the droves who come week after unceasing week to his two splendid dining places in Tagaytay City would have been deprived of the culinary fare and grace, which only someone with as much agility in the kitchen and consummate flair for service as he could render.

Escalante joined us for dinner recently, wearing his chef's uniform over well-worn jeans and sneakers. He told us the advice he dispenses freely to friends: "Don't listen to family if you're going to do something new because your family loves you and will always want the safest for you. If you must ask them their opinion, ask them last and only after you've gotten your feet wet. If I had listened (to my own family), Antonio's would never have been realized."

He is referring to Antonio's, the 130-seat restaurant he's built amid lush, landscaped gardens on over two hectares of rolling land which he purchased in the late 1990s. Another establishment, Antonio's Breakfast, is on ridge-side property with a panoramic view of Taal Lake. It was constructed a year after the first restaurant was opened.

By all appearances, he has done extremely well.

Escalante is a native of Negros Occidental in Western Visayas. His father wanted him to go into medicine. Since he wasn't keen on it, he enrolled in dentistry as a compromise. He made it up to third year proper. "I was already doing clinic but it just wasn't the life for me. I had to give it up."

He became a flight steward with Philippine Airlines in 1986. "My dad freaked when he found out," he recalls, laughing. "He didn't speak to me for two months!" The nine years he flew with PAL—the last eight on international routes, were "really fun years," Escalante says.

Even while with PAL, he already had a fish trade business. He bought fish from Negros and sold it in Manila. This entrepreneurial streak continued after he quit PAL and married Agnes Hechanova, likewise from a prominent Ilonggo family. Together, they put up a company organizing exhibits and conventions.

Lifestyle inspiration

In 1997, he met the owner of Sonya's Garden in Alfonso, Cavite. Sonya Garcia's lifestyle "inspired" him. She lives in a cottage surrounded by gardens and runs a restaurant there where the menu—salad greens, homemade bread, pasta, dessert, and coffee or tea—never changes. Still people flock to her place.

One Sunday, Escalante told his wife he was going up to Tagaytay to look for property. His wife just laughed but did not stop him. A broker pointed out several properties, and Escalante found one that he liked. It was deep within Barrio Neogan, off the main road and away from the ridge.

He built a small cottage for his family and a greenhouse for herbs and vegetables. He hired landscape artist Jun Obrero to transform the property into one huge country garden. Today, that garden is a showcase of Obrero's craftsmanship and has landed for him several other projects. In gratitude, he continues to maintain Escalante's garden for free.

Next, Escalante told his wife he was going to Australia to enroll in culinary school. His dad, bemused upon hearing of the plan, exclaimed, "What are you up to now?"

Escalante was bound for Sydney but was enamored of Adelaide in South Australia. Waxing rhapsodic, he remembers: "This wooden train with leather seats and handles that goes from the city to the beach; people at the races on Sundays, the women in *chapeau-bras* (big silk hats) and the men in suits, holding a wine glass as they walked around; and the beautiful Barossa Valley wine region there, which is equivalent to California's Napa Valley..."

He enrolled in an eight-month course at Adelaide's Regency Institute and worked for a few months in Australia before flying home. Back in Manila, he was taken in at the Mandarin Oriental's Tivoli under a special arrangement: He would work regular hours without pay but could take off weekends and any time he had to help his wife in their exhibit/convention-organizing company.

Escalante said this arrangement lasted three years, although Mandarin Executive Chef Norbert Gandler wanted to take him in as a regular after a month.

Stirrings

At about this time, he started to cook for people in his Tagaytay property. That is, he made himself available to friends who went up there on weekends. The idea for a restaurant was thus born. "I love to cook," Escalante says, "and those were great times with my friends." He grilled lamb and steaks for them, served fresh greens and herbs from his greenhouse. In short, they were his guinea pigs for what would become one of Antonio's house specialties—Spanferckel. That's crisp, boneless, stuffed suckling pig. With it, they downed countless bottles of wine under starlit skies.

His friends marveled at everything he put on the table. Soon, word got around about this marvelous place in Tagaytay lorded over by an Ilonggo genius of a cook who loved to entertain. People outside of his circle of friends started to call, asking about dinner bookings.

Of course Escalante obliged, serving new friends and clients in the garden, since there were no formal structures for the purpose to speak of. Finally, he decided to open a regular restaurant, a decision that was met with some trepidation by his family. "They were saying, who's going to come to this place? How will you fill it up with people?"

He designed the restaurant to look like a house. He explains: "If it didn't work out, I could always say, well, it wasn't really meant to be a commercial place."

Antonio's was opened to the public in November 2002, with a 50-seat capacity. He had to turn away people from day one. He upped the capacity to 70, and still there was a clamor for more. At one point, the waiting period for reservations reached two months! Finally, the original floor plan had to be restructured altogether. At present, seating capacity is 130 maximum.

A few more people surely want to see Antonio's expand further; others are not so happy about the house rules. "I had some bad times in the early days," he recounts. "I had only a few settings, and it's hard to say no to Filipinos, especially people you know."

He had to stand his ground. "People suggested that I open from lunch through dinner, without a break. But I want to hold on to the original concept of this being my home that I wish only to share with my guests. I'd like to enjoy what I'm doing. I don't want to be a slave and I don't want to be unnecessarily harassed. I will not work after 3 p.m. We close at that time and open again for dinner starting at 5:30. I really must take a break so I can prepare my kitchen well for dinner."

Bad press

He's had his share of bad press, particularly about his strict reservations-only policy. "Can you imagine driving all the way from Manila to Tagaytay to eat, only to hurry through the meal because others are standing around, waiting for a table? Worse, I've had people come up without reservations and, seeing the place is packed, still insist on being seated. And they get mad when they're refused."

Some friends of his may find it hilarious. Not Escalante, who has been written about as "pretentious" and "haughty." He protests: "That's not true at all. We accept reservations for dinner from 5:30 till 7:30 p.m. or, at the latest, 8 pm. If you come in a half hour late, I can't let you in because then what time will you finish? People should have the decency and good manners to respect house rules. Most of my patrons do; why whould I make exceptions?"

He is clear about one thing. "Ultimately, this is really just a hobby, something I like to do and which I hope to continue to enjoy doing. If I or my staff get too tired, the quality of service will suffer."

Under extreme circumstances, Escalante can actually be flexible. For instance, reservations are confirmed as a matter of course, and if the clients have a very good reason for not arriving on time, adjustments are made. "Once," he recalls, "there was a big accident at the South Luzon Expressway and traffic was snarled. People with reservations started coming in at 10, 11 p.m. I stayed open to serve them."

Apart from people who insist on being accommodated without reservations, what is non-negotiable to him? Reservations for cocktails. "I tell them, if they're not going to have dinner, I can't serve drinks. I don't want my place to be treated as a drinking place. People urge me to put up a bar, but I'd really like to stay focused on the original concept."

He says even his wife sometimes thinks he too severe in this department. "But that's how I am," he shrugs.

No compromise

There's no compromise, either, on the touches of elegance—the food presentation, the servers' crisp uniforms, freshly washed table linen, pristine crystal, squeaky clean china, gleaming flatware. In his breakfast place, he has flatware by Arthur Krupp and silverware from Sambonet. These restaurants are almost a perfect replication of the Escalante household in Negros.

"My mom believes you never keep things or just put them on display, no matter how fine or expensive; you use them," Escalante says. "Even in my own home, I'm not scared that the maids will break the things I like. What I have, I use."

Small wonder, then, that Antonio's is mistaken for a fine-dining restaurant. "What it is," the owner clarifies, "is a casual restaurant in an elegant setting."

The food is handled with the same meticulousness. Escalante uses homegrown micro greens for his salads and only the freshest mushrooms and the plumpest oysters air-flown from the Visayas; Bonne Maman jams from Biars-sur-cere in Southwest France. The most delicate pan-seared duck liver, he pairs ingeniously with greens and deliriously delectable *foie gras* with homemade grape jelly or Portobello mushrooms. But for this writer, the gorgeous rib eye steak takes the prize.

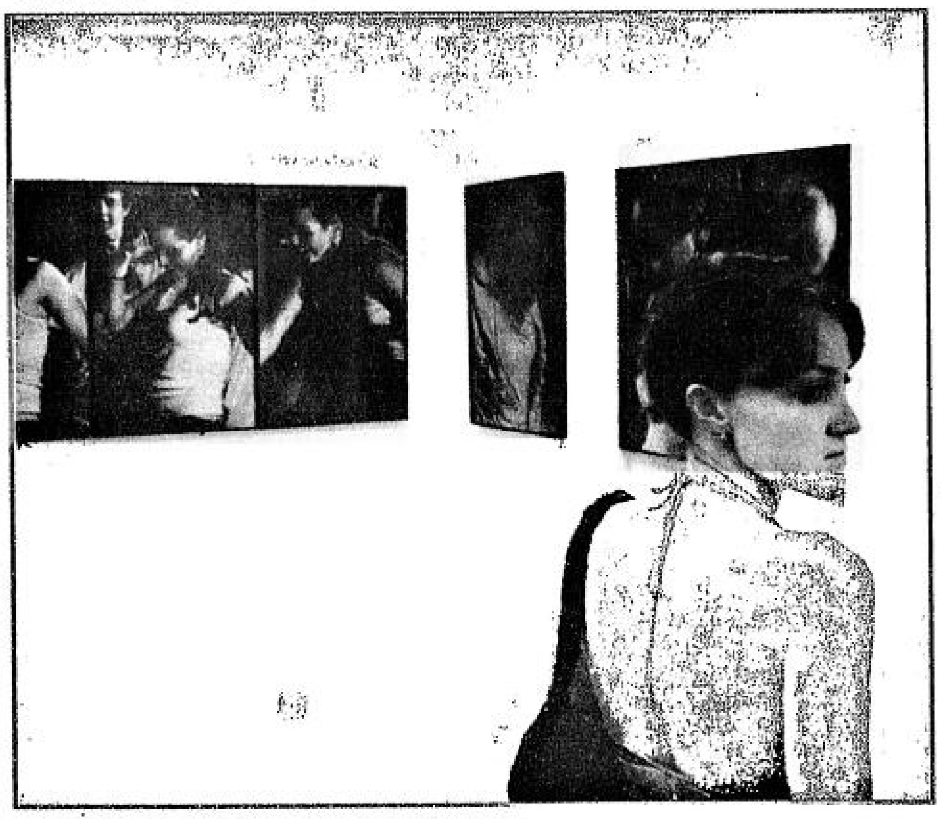
Certainly, success almost always provokes envy, and Antonio's has not been spared swipes. One detractor can't seem to get over the fact that Antonio's, despite its distance from the main road, has been attracting hordes—again and again. Every chance this person gets, he drops the line: "Do you know why people go to Antonio's? It's not for the food, but for his garden."

Once, I also overheard a snooty food writer for a glossy magazine say: "We finally went to Antonio's, my family and I, and I don't understand what the fuss is all about. The meat portions, my gosh, were so petite!" Someone with the thinnest slits for eyes would describe the rib steak at Antonio's as anything but small.

Escalante, well-bred gentleman that he is, simply shrugs. "I've never had any pretense about my food," he says in an even tone. "And I will never compete. I just cook food that I like and cook it the way I like."

Well, the man's been flashing a happy grin since late 1992, when he opened Antonio's. Equally phenomenal in its success is Antonio's Breakfast, opened in November 1993.

His unwavering guiding principle is something that his mentor at the Tivoli, Norbert Gandler, "hammered" into his head: "Never be overwhelmed by your ingredients; never be stingy with them. Use them in your dishes and don't be ashamed to price your food accordingly. Just use the best at all times, and you'll be okay."



Lensmen go digital

TO promote the wonders of Samsung's new Digimax digital camera, the company challenged the country's top photographers to use it. George Tapan, Francis Abraham, Bobot Meru, Wig Tysmans, Anton Sheker and Xander Angeles took a week to shoot their favorite subjects. They found it as easy as just framing the subject and clicking away. Tysmans captures a model's quiet moment in this photo for the recent Samsung exhibit held at the Metropolitan Museum.

The Hemline Theory

From page C1

been my frustration (in ready-to-wear). Women who come for made-to-order clothes are more experimental when it comes to length."

Lulu Tan-Gan says the mini was not all that hot in the '90s. Yet, investors were bullish at the time, and the influx of foreign brands indicated that Filipinos had a lot of disposable income. The mini ended up being "bought by short women who needed knee-length skirts," she recalls.

Leg-o-meter

Will Ms Arroyo's budget plans and monetary policies soon affect what we'll see in the malls?

Go has learned her lesson. "Customers don't go for unusual designs, such as asymmetrical tops. They'll think twice because they don't like repeating outfits." And so, she says, consumers prefer "safe" styles that can be worn again and again without calling too much attention.

Regardless of the economic outlook, Tan-Gan maintains, "You will have good sales when you have good products."

A financial glossary laughs off the Hemline Theory, describing it as "a capricious idea."

"The Hemline Theory has endured more as wishful thinking than serious market analysis," the glossary says.

Personally, I'm optimistic. Last weekend, I met a banker who was wearing a short skirt to show off her long gams. Maybe her instincts are telling her that Ms Arroyo has things under control.

STYLE AND PERFORMANCE WITHIN REACH

Eunice

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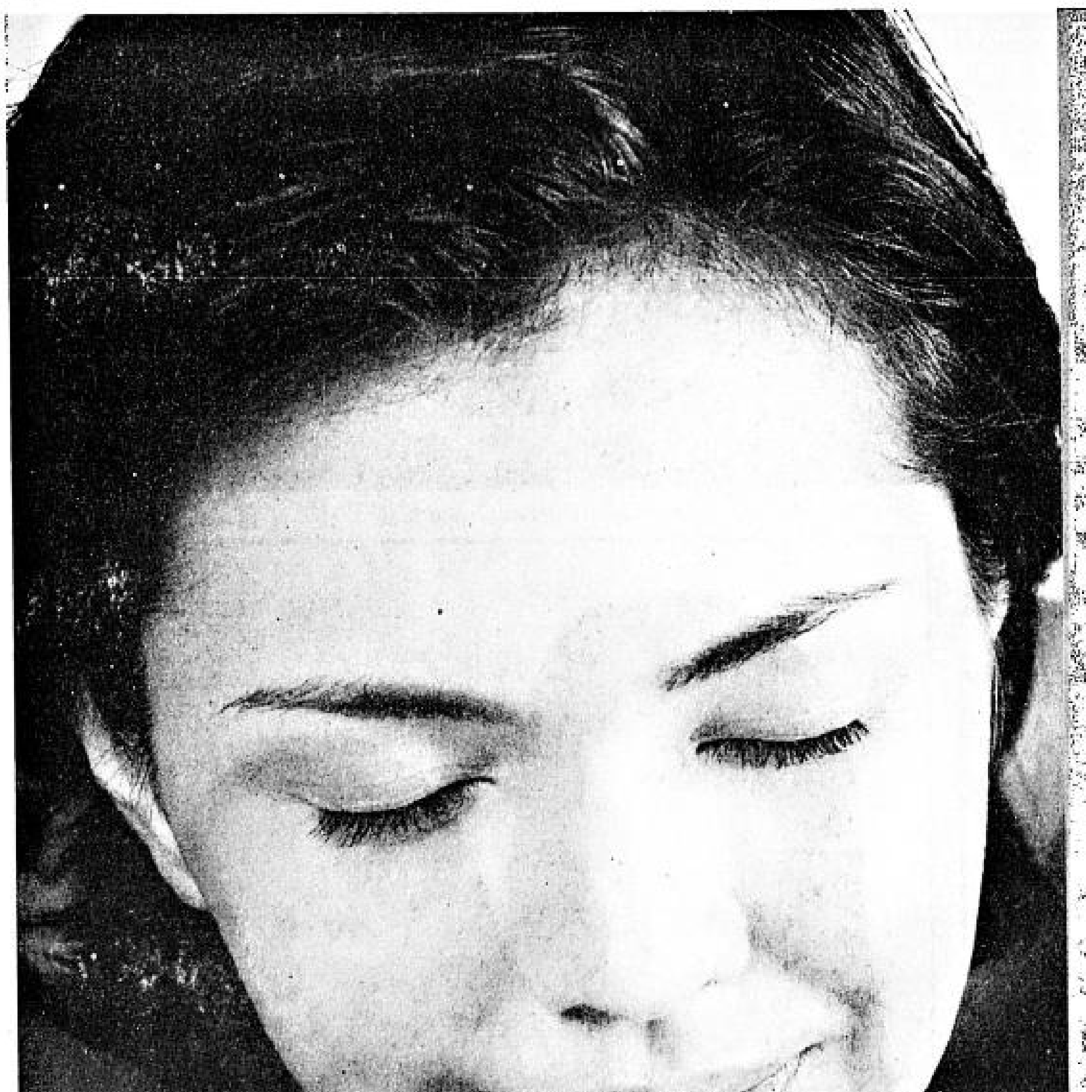

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The new 20s

Photos by Patrick Uy
Pictorial direction by Antonio Salac Santos

Age 40 kicks off the second adulthood, when we learn to use wisdom more than just rational faculties

TO SAY "Big 4-0" as if it were a crucible is passé. Nowadays 40s is the new 30s—or even the new 20s. It's a marker event in the sense that people in their 40s start changing their perspectives and discover their mission in life. It's the start of the second adulthood, so to speak, when people learn to use wisdom more than just rational faculties.

One afternoon, ÉLAN had a chat with Assumption high school jubilarians who were planning the *velada* (soirée) in October, on middle adulthood. They unanimously proclaimed they felt more confident than ever because of their experiences. Some said they had even ventured into new territories, whipped up new aspirations, and were following their instincts more than they did in their younger years.

Rhona Macasaet said she always wanted to write but couldn't find the time because of family responsibilities. Now that her children are older, she has been taking creative writing courses and is looking forward to having her short story published in an anthology that will be launched in October. "We are fearless," she said. "People my age are pursuing other things, like learning a new language. Writing has become my creative outlet. It's mind opening."

Marissa Concepcion became more adventurous and took up diving. "I wanted to see what it was like down there. And it's a different world with those sharks, turtles and beautiful fishes," she said. After traveling around the world, she has now discovered the beauty of the Philippines via trips on board the family yacht.

Happy balance

The 40s is also when women pause to rethink things and try to strike a happy balance in all aspects of their lives. They move away from personal advancement and focus more on doing good for their company or for others.

Jojo Ocampo, vice president of Bank of the Philippine Islands, recounted: "In the first few years of married life I was devoted to my husband, building my home and career. Now I feel more rounded, I get to hang out with my kids, and I go to gym more often than in my younger days."

Being a lady boss has great advantages, Jojo admitted: "Women are more collaborative, and we empathize better. We are able to draw out the best in people. We know how to motivate them. I'm less competitive. I don't let the peripheral things in the office bother me. I do a good job for the sake of doing a good job. I work because I love what I do. I'm not bothered by competition. I don't spend time making sure I'm recognized. I don't think I'm better than my peers."

"Women are shattering the typecast that 40 is over the hill," added **Liza Latinazo,** general manager of Star Group in the Philippines. "Because of experience, they have more faith and better judgement."

Unbounded

Opthalmologist **Carmela Isabela** said she kept herself looking young by healing her patients. "When you're able to make your patients see clearly (after laser surgery), you feel good about yourself. You feel young."

These wives and mothers feel unbounded. They have become better in managing their time and collating their priorities. They have found that this is the time to spread their wings and rediscover their uniqueness.

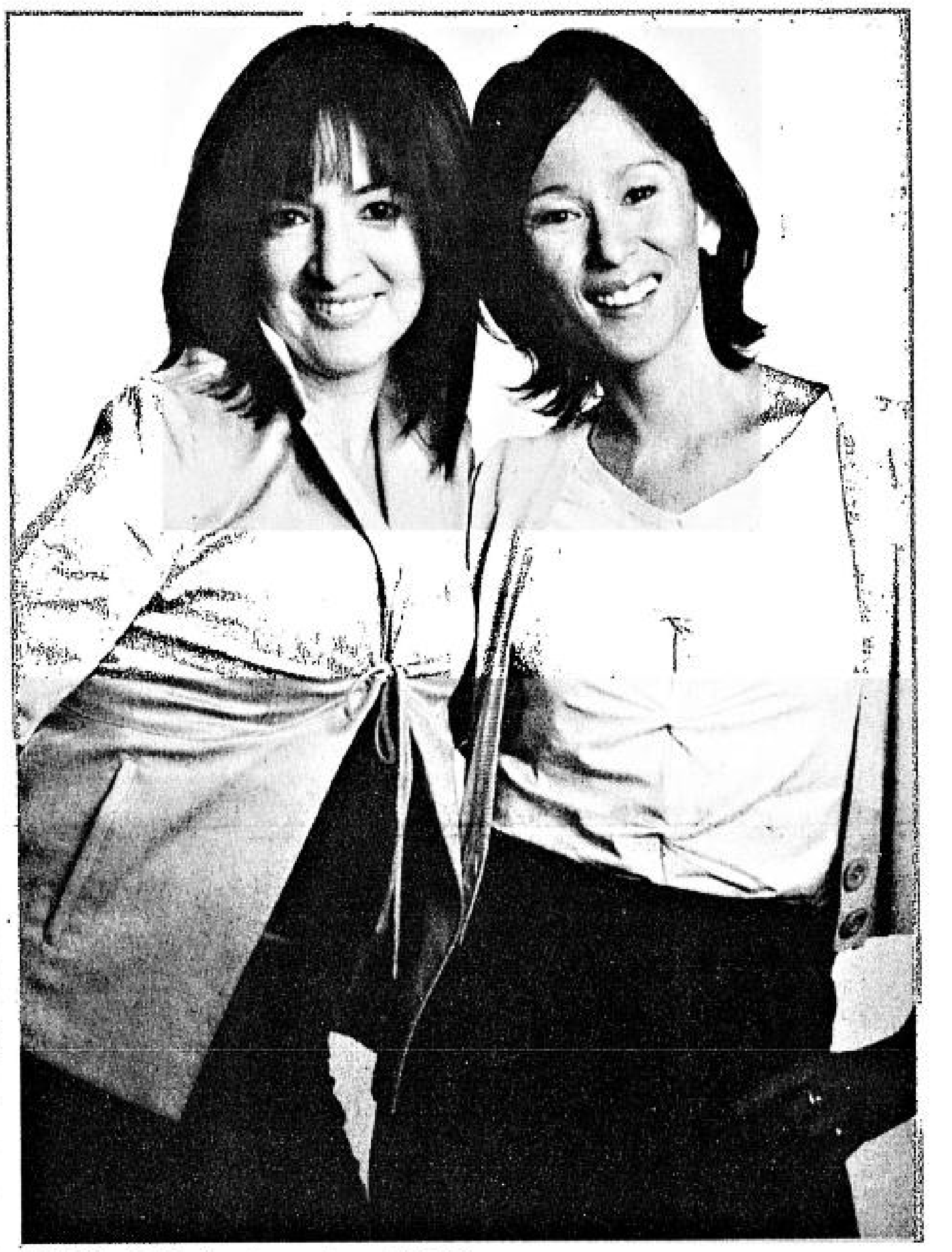
After years of being the obedient wife and dutiful mother, **Tina Quimson** is kicking her heels. "I can do my own thing and there's nobody telling me what to do!" she said.

"After so many years, you're more in control of your finances. You get a rhythm that you didn't have before. What was once difficult such as multi-tasking is now a breeze. It's like you're in control," said **Rina Go** of Viseversa.

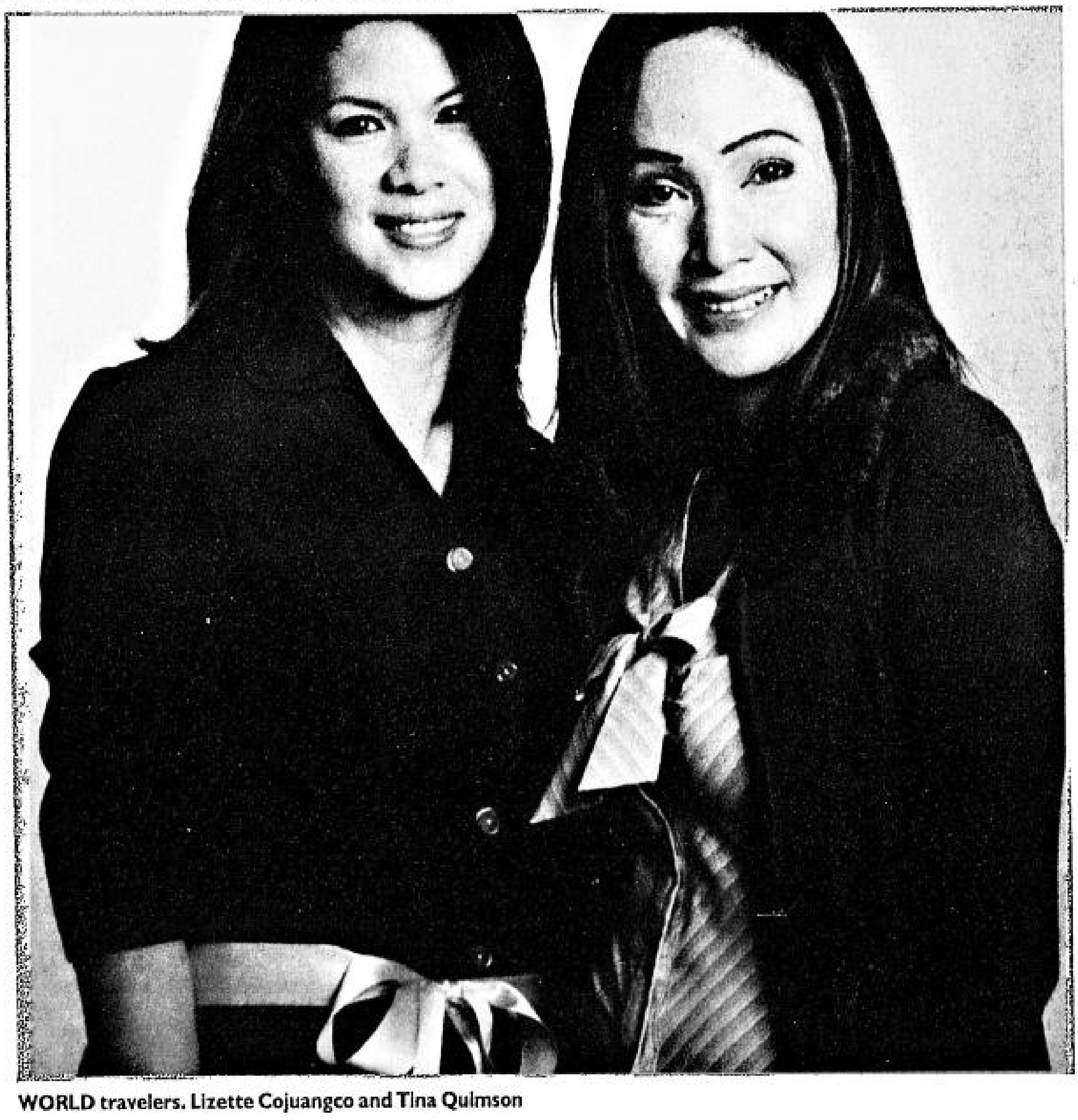
Lizette Cojuangco believes that age is all in the mind. She explained: "I can relate to people more confidently, which I couldn't do when I was younger. I am able to do more projects now. At this age, I can look back on the past with a different point of view. There's so much power in us, that we can make life either happy or unhappy."

Hair and makeup by Patrick Rosas
assisted by Noel Jimenez and Ruel Jorillo
Clothes: Viseversa at Rustan's, SM Megamall A

AFTER six dressing. Rhona Macasaet and Rina Go



WORK ethic. Marissa Concepcion and Jojo Ocampo

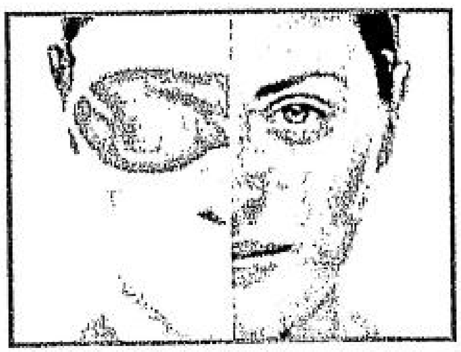


WORLD travelers. Lizette Cojuangco and Tina Quimson

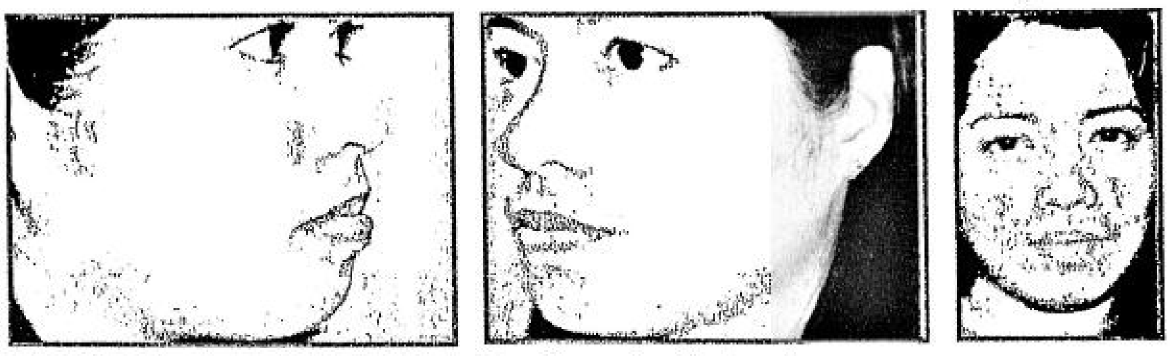
CASUAL chic. Carmela Isabela and Liza Latinazo

Secret no more

A specialty skin care center offers a virtual feast of 30 treatments



CASMARA masque is the ultimate experience.



BEFORE and after photos of improved skin condition after a series of treatments

THE POPULARITY of facial centers is an offshoot of both the beauty and spa trends.

More than just pampering the body, these centers help smooth out physical symptoms of mental tension. The senses, especially smell and touch, are brought into play with beneficial effects.

One of the metro's best-kept secrets is Total Skinn Complete Body Care, run by Rejuvenescence Inc. Women have been patronizing the place for both the fastidious facial cleansing and the flexible value-for-money package. The cleaning is painless and doesn't leave scars and scabs.

Total Skinn offers 30 treatments for specific skin types. However, it differentiates itself from a dermatological clinic in the sense that it doesn't correct skin problems or offer invasive procedures, oral medication or injections.

Its specialization is the Spanish Casmara mask. Compared with other facials, this one thoroughly nourishes the face, including the eyelids and neck. It is recommended for men who have developed sensitive skin from shaving. Stress can cause oiliness and blemishes. The Sebum Blemish and Normalizing Facial are touted as the "ultimate weapons" against severely oily skin and breakouts. They fight bacteria without causing dryness.

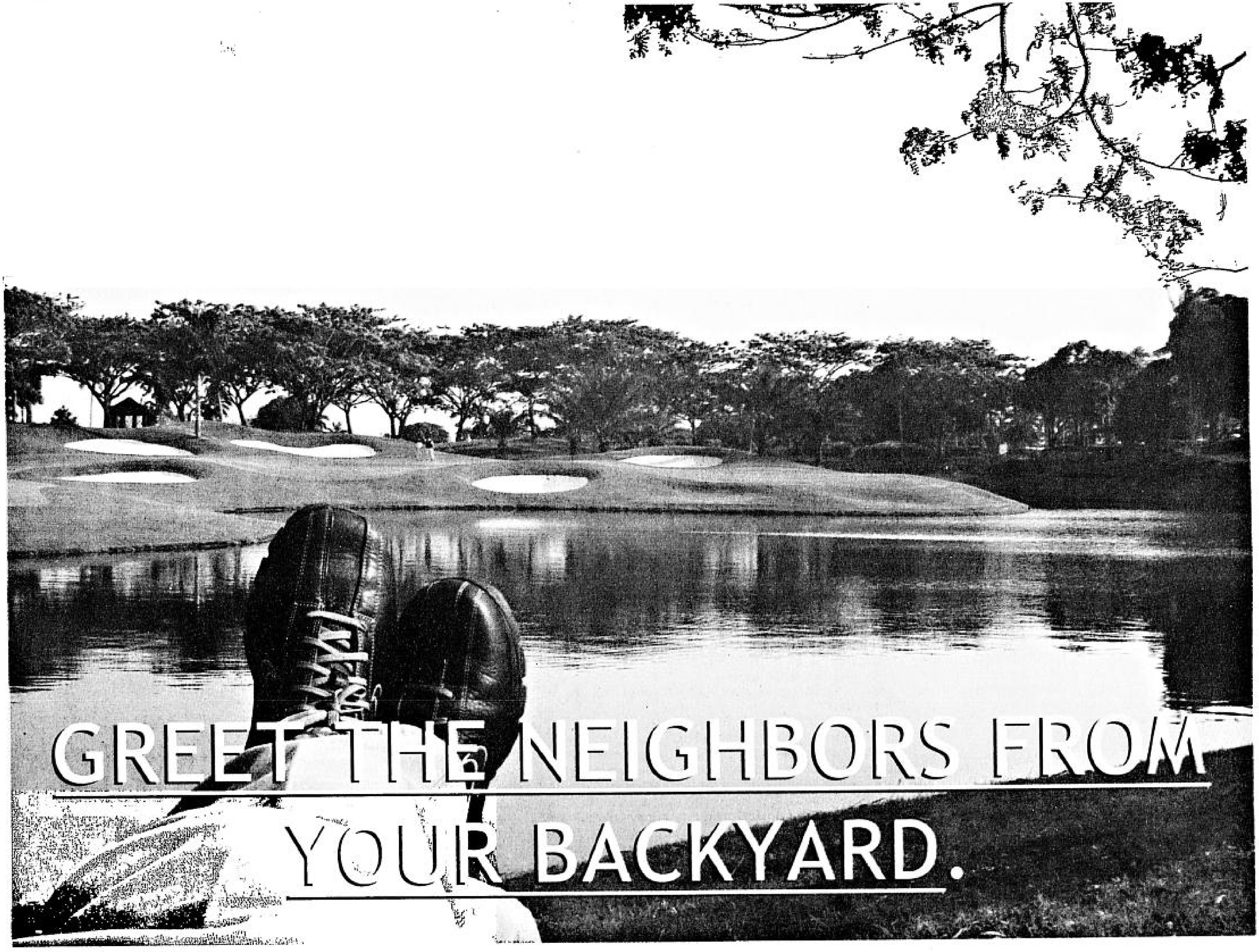
Expectedly, the Casmara is the center's best seller because it also incorporates the disinfecting qualities of marigold and the antiseptic qualities of burdock that makes oily skin become matte.

The Vitamin Vegetable Mask lightens dry skin and keeps it supple.

The basic treatment is the Purifying Herbal Facial, which consists of natural botanical extracts. It prepares the skin to absorb the therapeutic effects of the treatments. The texture of the mask or the moisturizer depends on the skin type. This one contains lavender extracts for regenerating skin cells, and chamomile for repairing damage-stressed skin. This is recommended for smokers who have a greyish skin tone.

Even incidental exposure to the sun, such as sitting in the car, can cause brow spots or hyper-pigmentation. The Dermic Decoloring Treamtent contains mulberry and bearberry extracts that are said to be more effective than Vitamin C, kojic acid and hydroquinone, common ingredients in lightening the skin. The Dermic Decoloring solution also includes lepargylic acid from olive oil, an anti-wrinkle ingredient.

Total Skinn is located at 8th Floor, Pearlbank Center, 146 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, tel. nos. 894-5877 and 5879.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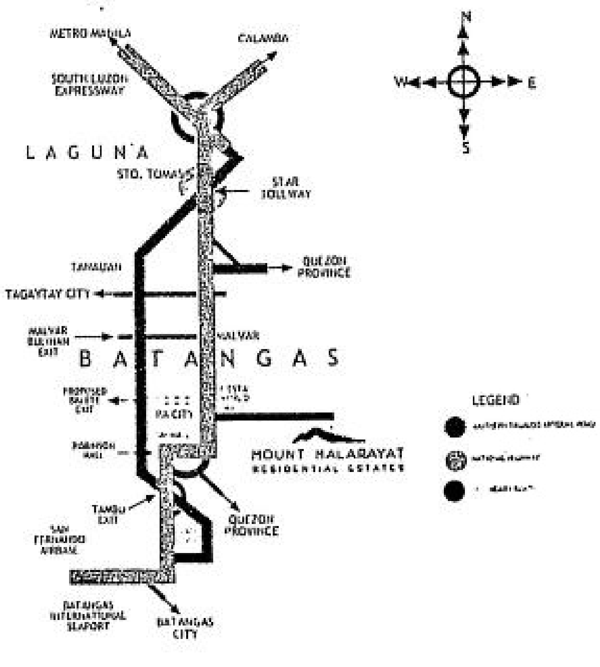
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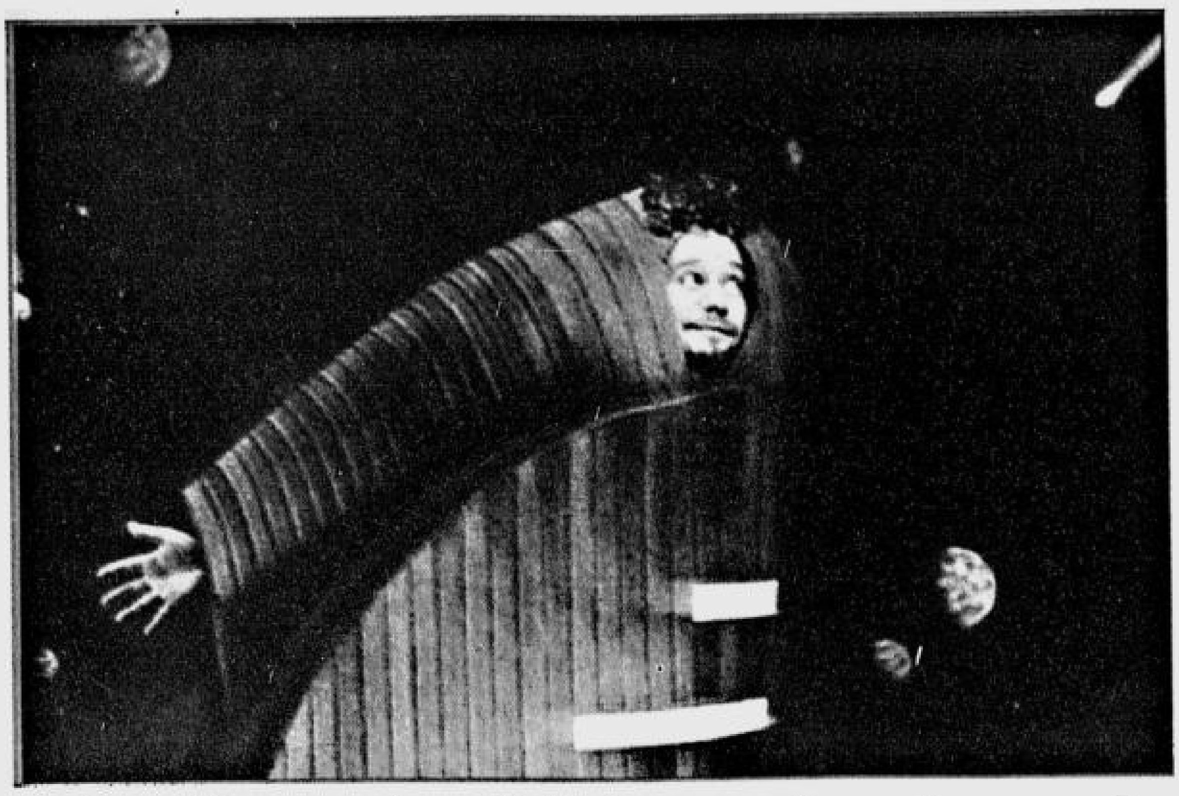


Malice in Wonderland

Philippe Starck is an architect of moments, coaxing us into the magic rabbit hole and making us gasp

By Bea Valdes
Contributor

> *Meanings are dislocated—hidden in unexpected places, multiplied and split, given over to ambiguity, plurality, and uncertainty, the dream represents a decentered universe.*
> *—Margot Norris, "The Decentered Universe of Finnegans Wake"*

AS THE clichés of minimalism and retro-modernism crumble, perhaps the phenomenon of McObjects and pre-packaged, hyper-styled life will tumble down, too. The Nineties saw its bible in Wallpaper Magazine—its pages a collage of slick, smooth images, where style-nazis suggested these wrinkle-free clothes, or urged us to mimic those cool interiors, declared certain atmospheres appropriate, and even profiled the right pout. We subscribed to their sense of style, and defaulted on our own sense of humor. The glossy pages glorified even glossier people, eternally tanned and taunting: "We live here. Welcome to the Void."

Zen was a marketing ploy that glammed up Peter Behrens/Mies Van der Rohe reductionist theory of "Less is more" (Personally, I prefer the Simpson-ish version: "Keep it simple, stupid".) This modernist ethic was explored in Adolf Loos' "Ornament and Crime." In 1908, Loos observed that children doodled and scribbled because they had not reached emotional and physical maturity. He related this to development in societies which, having reached a certain level of civilization, no longer indulged in unnecessary ornamentation. Elaboration and ornamentation signaled fermenting barbarism. Decadent decoration was an indicator of stunted cultural development: shadows of potential criminal tendency. In his opinion, such garnishment was characteristic of a degenerate aristocrat; lavishness a sign of deviancy.

Gnomes out there

And deviancy is what characterizes Philippe Starck. He is design's master of acceptable perversion. The chic set may roll their eyes at his mention, and Central St. Martin's art tutors may scoff at the unadulterated fan (it has happened). He is the design equivalent of declaring love for the impressionists. It's just too obvious, too easy. Not discriminating enough. He has been a presence for the last two decades, stamping his name on everything from hotels to fly swatters, from the Eurostar to toothbrushes. To nail the coffin shut on clean interiors, one thing a traveler must do is experience a Starck interior.

He is an architect of moments, coaxing you into the magic rabbit hole and making you gasp. He spawns cosmopolitan mythology and plastic ideology. His hotels are lush and lunatic: plastic gnomes in one lobby in London, a Persian carpet of light in LA. In New York, he elevates canteen eating by seating guests at one long table, shattering the boundaries of personal space and enforcing a new social structure.

One of the most comical effects of his interiors is the way everyone tries hard to look so darn unimpressed. Guests wear lazy smiles molded by margaritas, between twilight and high lights, sporting the latest smirk. I have witnessed people yawning with boredom inversely proportional to their hidden delight. It's difficult not to be surprised, as he can dim the light when you least expect it, or present you with fascinating, languid sculptures that turn out to be a faucet. And then there's the whole complexity of how to get it to work! That's why his spaces are so popular. Once you've been there, you have to return with someone who has not, so you can bask in their own wonder—and nod, and wink, yes, those are gnomes in the lobby.

What makes him stand out from everybody else is that he is not just trying to design a space, or an object, but to rouse curiosity. I am convinced he has set out to tickle us. And we're trying so hard not to laugh. And it does seem as if he has slipped through the cracks of the looking glass. Lewis Caroll used linguistics to create hybrid words (see the Jabberwocky's song); the same way Starck fuses familiar and bizarre shapes. His future-perfect orange juicer, which baffled one of my art professors, had a cameo in the last installment of the movie "Men in Black," where it was portrayed, appropriately enough, as a space ship.

The Jabberwocky Song

Twas brillig and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;
All mimsy were the borogoves
And the mome raths outgrabe.—***Lewis Carroll, "Alice in Wonderland"***

Joyce Carol Oats noted: "To descend down a rabbit hole, to push through a mirror in a drawing room, to enter that 'other world' of the imagination—this is Alice's destiny, as it might be said to be our collective destiny, if only we value it and cultivate it. For the artist of any kind, the experience is life itself." It is not really surprising, as "Alice in Wonderland" remains one of the most referenced books after Shakespeare and the Bible.

I've often imagined that Starck's hotel guests are ushered, as C.S. Lewis explains, into the preposterous which sends one with renewed pleasure into the actual. And whispering, they echo similar conversations:

"But I don't want to go among mad people," Alice remarked.

"Oh, you can't help that," said the Cat. "We're all mad here. I'm mad. You're mad."

"How do you know I'm mad?" said Alice.

"You must be," said the Cat, "or you wouldn't have come here."

I can just feel the outline of that vanishing grin. And it is Starck himself who sits as Humpty Dumpty, that cosmic egg, and teeters on the wall, on which one side is madness and the other, genius.

Taming of the tresses

TO PLAY vixen roles, curly-haired actresses such as Nicole Kidman and Sarah Jessica Parker straighten their locks. For Filipinas, the humid weather almost guarantees bad-hair days with unwieldy'locks, flyaway strands or wild curls.

Curly hair bends and twists so that each strand develops miniscule gaps in the cuticle into which moisture can seep and cause swelling, thus the frizz. Curly hair is also naturally dry, so it looks frayed even when it absorbs water. That's why women resort to straightening, or relaxing, or rebonding.

But conventional hair straightening can damage the hair shaft or even burn the scalp.

L'Oreal recently launched a professional line, X-Tenso, which gives women a choice between taming the frizz or getting stick-straight hair. The X-Tenso range is made of cationic polymers which, according to research, is stable under heat and reverses the curling process.

Natural negative ions destroy water molecule clusters. As these clusters become ultra-fine, they penetrate the hair shaft, hydrate the hair, seal the cuticles and improve their strength, and restore the hair's moisture and shine.

The full L'Oreal process involves washing and conditioning the hair, then treating the hair with X-tenso. The processing lotion softens the curls by assuaging the internal-stresses of the hair. As the hair is pressed with a flat iron, it is thermally rebuilt into a new straight shape. A neutralizer permanently (six months average) sets the hair into a straight configuration.

For women who just want to tame their frizzes, Natural Straight smoothens the hair. X-Tra Strait rebonds each hair strand from roots to ends for a flat but silky finish. To ensure safety, Total Protection Treatment keeps hair fibers intact, unlike conventional straighteners and relaxers that destroy the shaft. It contains a patented formula, Inonéne G, which penetrates the cortex to strengthen, repair and protect the hair fiber.

Afterwards, the hair gets Power Dose Treatment, with ceramides that rebuild the hair's internal structure and promote hair resistance so that it doesn't break. The whole process takes three hours. The treated hair should not be washed for 72 hours or held with rubber bands or hair clips within the same time period. Regrowth is treated after six months.

White light

LIGHT the freckles and brighten the skin. That's the pitch of many whitening brands. But Shiseido's White Lucent range takes things a step further. By purifying the pores, the skin's capacity to reflect light is improved, resulting in more obvious whitening effects.

Shiseido has developed a unique formula that controls the production of melanin, evens out skin tone, and creates a relaxing effect.

When the skin is exposed to the sun, melanin embryos are created from biochemical reactions before they become brown melanin pigments below the skin surface. In a few weeks, they surface as ugly brown spots. Shiseido laboratories discovered one of these melanin embryos that become brown spots after being exposed to sun rays.

To make a whitener effective, it must first block the enzyme that stimulates the melanin growth and also the production of melanin outside the melanocytes. Shiseido's patented Dual Target Vitamin C is more potent than the conventional Vitamin C derivatives. Combined with an ethyl group, Dual Target Vitamin C has already prevented pigments from forming in the bottom layer of the skin even after it has been exposed to the sun.

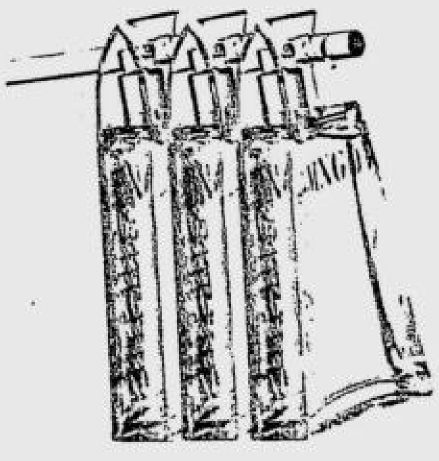
The skin is protected by plant extracts that prevent dryness, oxidation and anti-inflammation. The skin is regenerated by boosting blood circulation, revitalizing the skin cells. Shiseido also developed a fragrance, natural floral green note with Tea Rose. Brain wave tests show that this combination has a soothing effect.

The serum reduces melanin formation. It has a moisture-retaining ability that senses humidity and skin moisture levels. It hydrates the skin and also serves as a barrier under dry conditions.

Brightening Powder is made of a micro-coating treatment that invigorates the skin with an infusion of light immediately upon application, creating a satiny and flawless look. The color pigments also reflect the light that softly spreads from the skin surface and from within. Light penetrates the skin more easily if the moisture level is higher, and if there is less melanin and more circulation.

Tests have shown that skin becomes clearer and pores become finer after a month of using White Lucent.

Imaging scents



YOUNG women, or even just women who are young at heart, are the most adventurous. They love to try scents that are out of the norm.

What attracts this market is not just the fragrance, but also the image of the fragrance. Image plays a significant role in marketing scents. It is what defines one among peers, a way to stand out.

Such is the tack of MNG, the new fragrance from the Barcelona-based fashion brand Mango.

The fragrance embodies MNG fashion's perceived qualities—edgy, cosmopolitan, coquettish. Tangerine, a major ingredient, connotes a freshness that is the current market expectation for clean.

Vivacious fruity notes are enhanced by the suave scent of flowers and balanced by the warmth of vanilla and sandalwood.

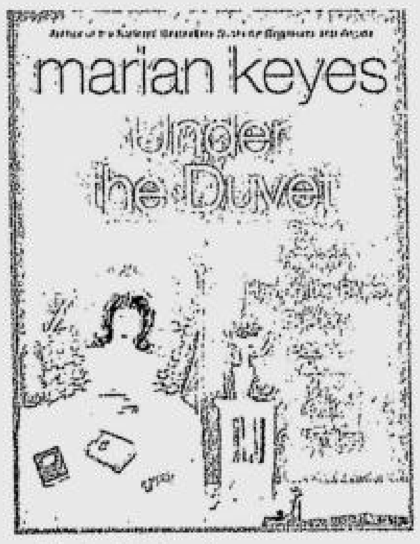
Puig, maker of designer fragrances, launched it in Spain in 2002 with great success. The company believes the success can be matched in Asia.

Not the usual 'chick lit' stuff

Marian Keyes blends comedy and darkness in a style that sets her apart from ... Helen Fielding, for one

By Cherish Garcia Hernandez, *Contributor*

BOOK REVIEW



Under the Duvet
Shoes, Reviews, Having the blues, Builders, Babies, Families and Other Calamities
By: Marian Keyes
Penguin Books, 2004, 286 pages

MARIAN Keyes is the international best-selling author of "Watermelon," "Lucy Sullivan is Getting Married," "Rachel's Holiday," "The Last Chance Saloon," "Angels," "Sushi for Beginners," "Under the Duvet," and "The Other Side of the Story." Her books have been translated in many different languages and published in 35 countries. Millions have been sold worldwide.

If you've read Keyes' work, you know her heroines are alluring and her stories are very funny. But her sense of humor doesn't prevent her from taking on serious subjects. Her characters are real women who struggle with universal trials in love and life.

In "Under the Duvet," the reader gets a glimpse into the "real" Marian, in a collection of personal essays on shopping, writing, movie-making, motherhood and all the various mishaps involved in being a savvy woman in the new millennium. Written in the amiable and forthcoming voice that has become Keyes signature style, "Under the Duvet" is both heartwarming and comical, not to mention an incredibly easy and entertaining read.

Keyes had written her second book ("Lucy Sullivan") at about the same time that "Bridget Jones' Diary" by Helen Fielding hit the bookstores. Because they are both comic writers who discuss "everyday" women's issues, the comparison is inevitable.

Trademark irreverence

But unlike Fielding's overtly comedic prose, Keyes writes with an unusual blend of comedy and darkness and covers subjects like depression, addiction and illness. This sets her work apart from the usual chick-lit genre.

Because she is also a journalist, most of the 47 non-fiction pieces in this collection have been published previously in magazines and newspapers. Her trademark irreverent spin on subjects close to a woman's heart resonate throughout the essays, which are grouped into seven sections: the writing life, personal possessions, friends and family, acting like an adult, holidays, Irish-ness, and travels abroad.

Topics include women's obsession with shoes (aptly titled "Imeldas, how to spot them"), the obsessive dieting that precedes a wedding, buying a house, and modern-day miracles like Botox. She is especially funny when tackling marriage but she can also turn serious, like when she discusses her alcoholism. Although some of the pieces seem dated (most are from the late 1990s), her fans are still bound to enjoy this up-close look at the wildly popular author.

The simple, hilarious, and often very poignant stories are peeks into Keyes' own life. They make the reader smile, sigh, and—in at least one column on her victory over alcoholism—weep. Readers who have read her books will experience some strong deja vu, as whole sections of Keyes' truly elaborate life seem to find their way into her novels, sooner or later, for instance, the mud bath that one main character took just before her wedding in order to fit into her dress!

Maximum enjoyment

That it can be picked up and put down at random is part of this book's charm. Each essay functions on its own. In fact, in her preface, the author suggests that the reader simply browse and choose according to his or her mood at the moment. That was what I did, and I enjoyed every single essay.

Keyes' wit and sarcasm makes up for a lack of profundity. Her observations on life, in-laws, weight loss, and parties will not only make you chuckle but grimace with recognition as well, even if all these have been echoed before. I wouldn't call "Under the Duvet" a laugh riot, or a must-read, but I have to say that it was a comfort to read over breakfast or after a tiring day at work.

"Under the Duvet" belongs to a small genre that consists of short non-fiction works (columns, essays, random thoughts) by writers better-known for their novels. Alice Thomas Ellis, who is famous for "The Summer Trilogy" novels, also wrote the "Home Life" series, a collection of columns about her everyday life in Wales. Sue Townsend published her "Adrian Mole" stories and, recently, a collection of columns about her daily life, "The Public Confessions of a Middle-Aged Woman." Amy Tan jotted down her thoughts and musings in "The Opposite of Fate."

Writers who are successful in spinning good stories seem just as able to turn everyday situations into delightful tales. This is why their lives seem more interesting than ours; this is why they are fun to read.

Standing tall, slouching low

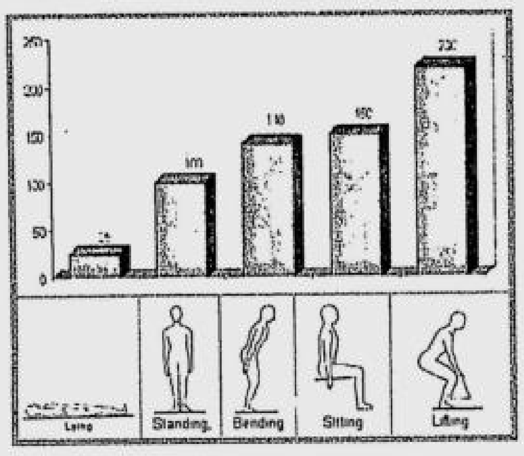
Proper posture is crucial to preventing a host of ailments, including back pain and tension headaches

By Dr. Martin Camara
Contributor

WE HAVE become a race of slouchers. People no longer stand or sit with their spines straight and tall. We collapse into our frames again and again. Mothers all over the world remind their children to "Sit up straight!" Ironically, they themselves fail to do that.

Almost daily in my chiropractic clinics, parents bring their children for postural corrections, unhappy with how the kids look. Walking, standing and sitting tall are not just about good looks, however. Proper posture (and deportment) is crucial to preventing a host of ailments, including back pain and repetitive strain disorders such as tension headaches, carpal tunnel, etc. No fancy ergonomic chair or magic brace can compensate for the risks introduced by slouching.

Renowned Swedish researcher Alf Nachesmson measured the pressure on the inter-vertebral disc (infamous culprit in the dreaded condition called slipped disc) depending on different body positions. He found that the least amount of pressure corresponds to lying down and standing erect. Pressure doubles when one is seated, and triples if he is seated and slouched! Remember that lower back pain affects eight out of every 10 people. As I've often said before, these habits may seem insignificant, but over a period of time they add up to pain or injuries. (See graph.)



Causes

Most toddlers have perfect posture. Their heads sit atop straight spines. When school begins, children literally go into a slump because of the hard, molded chairs they are made to use. They writhe, wriggle, and slide in their seats, trying to get comfortable. Eventually, their bodies take on the shape of the chairs. Their spines curve into a "C," heads lob forward, shoulders slump, and bellies sag. Girls in their puberty, embarrassed by the development of their breasts, hunch over in an effort to conceal them. As these patterns continue, some teenagers and young adults begin to look prematurely middle-aged because their trunk muscles become too weak to keep them upright. Eventually, these postural habits become full-fledged deformities that can be difficult or impossible to correct.

Most sedentary workers have adapted to years of improper seated posture. Their backs sway because their abdominal muscles are weak, their shoulders round, and their heads droop forward. More problems arise when people work one leg more than the other, carry one shoulder higher than the other (usually the result of toting heavy bags), twist their trunks, and wear four-inch heels.

Slouching and poor posture have a price. We put 500 percent more pressure on the delicate bones and muscles of our neck and back for every inch we go forward. That is a significant amount of weight and pressure over time, considering that the head is about 10 to 12 pounds.

Remedies

Rounded shoulders are generally accompanied by overstretched mid-back muscles and tight pectoral muscles, which can compress the brachial plexus, an important network of nerves. If muscle tightness impairs nerve function or blood flow, you may experience numbness, coldness, tingling, and weakness in your arms and hands. Chronically contracted muscles can execute a limited range of motion and operate at reduced efficiency, leading to a vicious cycle of tightness, pain, and more tightness. Obesity can also lead to poor posture because the weight of the belly pulls on the spine, resulting in back pain and strain.

How can we correct this ?

To stand properly, keep your ears, shoulders, hips, knees, and ankles in a straight line. Your chin should be level, tilted neither up nor down. Keep your shoulder blades together. Pull your navel to your spine, and keep your lower back long, rather than arched or tucked under. Try to imagine that you're pushing the sky with the top of your head. Remember that the direction is upward and not back. Most people will extend their neck and shoulders back when told to straighten up.

Sitting tall should resemble standing tall as closely as possible. Elongate the spine, lift the ribs off the waist, and keep the shoulder blades flat and the neck long.

The Alexander Technique is one of the most effective approaches for correcting habitual patterns of misuse. Its focus is conscious control and re-training. The instructions of an Alexander teacher gives us an idea of the ideal: "Let the neck be free, allowing the head to come forward and up. Let the back lengthen and widen.

Exercise! Strengthening and stretching the back muscles, which promote good posture, will definitely help. Think reverse fly, lateral pull down, arm rotation and tricep pull. Balance push-ups and bench presses by stretching the same muscle groups afterwards. Most problems with posture can be traced to shortened pectoral muscles due to lack of stretching. Leaning against an open door with your forearms and working your chest through the frame is a great stretch for the pectorals.

PERRY Sevidal (center in floral skirt) treats her students like family.

Dance is life

TO LOVE dance is to love life. This is the credo of Perry Sevidal's School of Dance. Students adopt, more than technique, values for living. Teaching serves not just to pass information but to interact: the teacher looks into the eyes of the pupil and the pupil looks into the eyes of the teacher, each to see no more than a smile.

Perry's teaching method is not just formal instruction, but the sharing of experience and wisdom, culled from years as a member of Ballet Philippines.

She gives the students affirmation, so that they gain priceless confidence. As dance is thus taught with an open hand, students learn to think positively. Not even for slower learners is there a feeling of failure. Perry believes her role is to serve her students, minister to them until they bloom.

Perry Sevidal School of Dance offers ballet at all levels, from toddlers to mothers; also jazz and Pilates mat classes taught by a certified instructor. It is located at 8883 Sampaloc Avenue, San Antonio Village, Makati City. Tel. 895-3162 and 895-7812.

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"The Wrestlers" courtesy of University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts
Per DTI NCR Permit No. 4152 Series of 2004

Sharon celebrates the good life with Citibank credit cards

Megastar Sharon Cuneta maybe on a well-deserved hiatus from her show business career, but that does not mean the multi-awarded actress and singer is slowing down.

Sharon is taking the opportunity to rediscover home life, preparing for the arrival of her new baby and spending quality time with her family.

"People think that I'm so busy with a lot of things but at the end of the day, I'm still a wife and a mom with a household that I need to stay on top of. I have to make sure that everything's in order and try to be as involved as possible," Sharon relates.

Sharon is referring to among others, having to make sure all bills are paid, and making necessary purchases for the home and the baby due very soon. Here, a most useful tool for Sharon is her Citibank Gold Visa.

Sharon says her Citibank credit card is "the only card I need to enjoy life more." She adds, "My Citibank credit card gives me just what I need, whether it's a discount in my favorite store, the convenience of charging all my utility bills through Citibank 1Bill or earning Rewards by simply using my card."

Acknowledged as the industry innovator in card products and services, Citibank continues to break new ground to deliver more value for its cardholders. Most recently, Citibank launched a series of promotional activities guaranteed to bring the best values for its cardholders.

From August until December, Citibank cardholders can look forward to best installment deals when shopping for appliances, furniture as well as lifestyle products. Sharon and the hundreds of thousands of Citibank cardholders will be treated to 0% installment deals - not just with appliance and furniture outlets, but even at lifestyle store Marks & Spencer.

With all these exciting promotional activities, it's small wonder that Sharon has been using her Citibank card more frequently now, whereas before, the megastar used to shop with cash.

These days, Sharon is making sure she enjoys her long overdue sabbatical. After all, the megastar needs all the rest and relaxation she can get, now that she's expecting baby number three.

"Showbiz is the least of my concerns right now," says Sharon. "As of the moment, I'm just savoring every time that I spend with my family as we eagerly anticipate the arrival of our newest baby. I'm living a good life and my Citibank credit card makes it even better."

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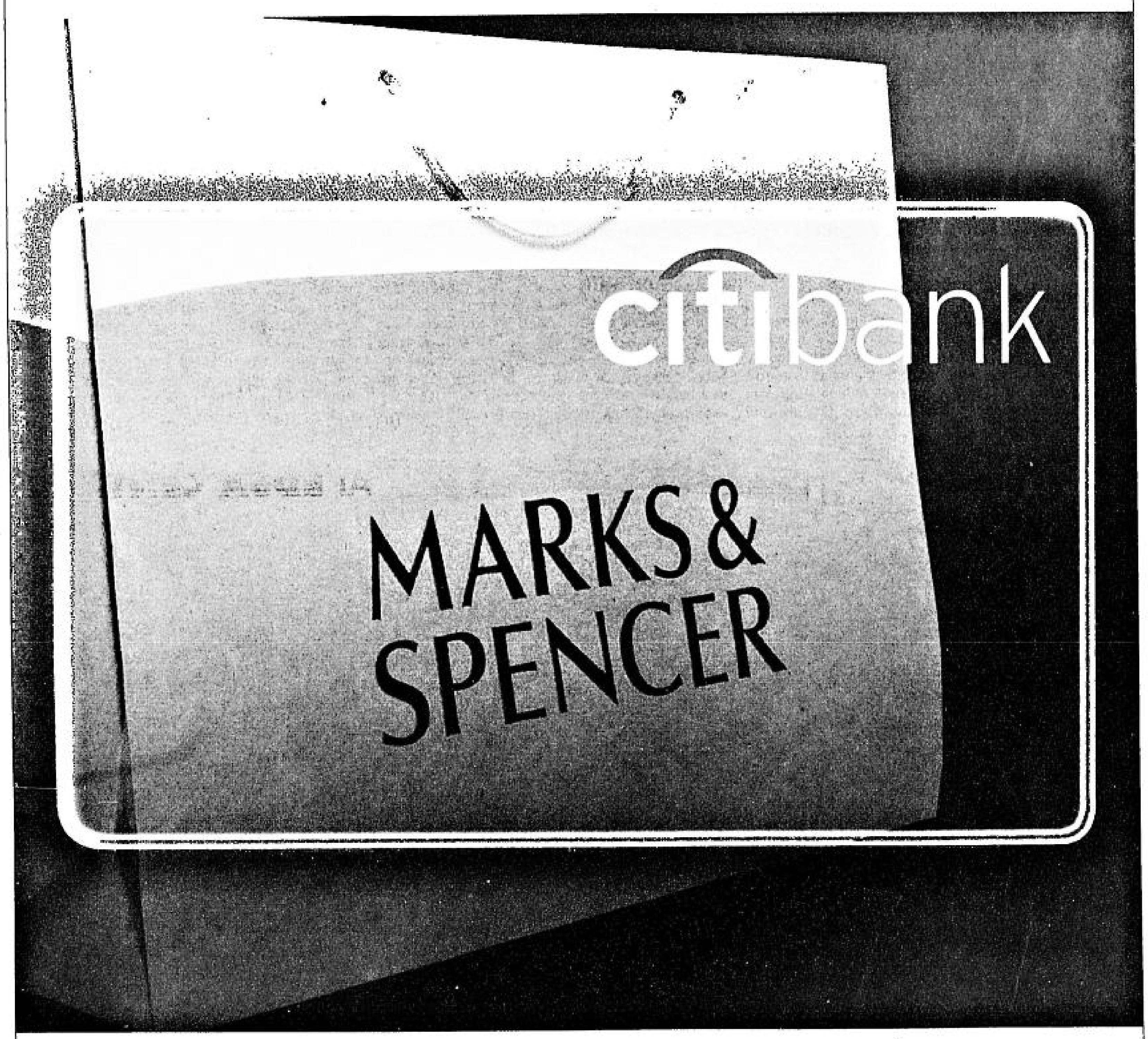

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Editor Nestor U. Torre
Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

New films up the entertainment ante

By Nestor U. Torre

DURING the second half of the year, movie producers up the entertainment ante to keep viewers interested, hence these high-powered productions, which will be shown starting next month:

'De-Lovely'

A musical love story about Cole Porter (Kevin Kline), his public life, his life in secret, and the great music he made from both.

In the film, Porter looks back on his life as if it was one of his spectacular stage shows, with the people and events in his life becoming the actors and action onstage.

Through hits like "Night and Day," "It's De-Lovely" and "In the Still of the Night," Porter's elegant, excessive past comes to light, including his deeply complicated relationship with his wife, Linda (Ashley Judd).

'2046'

For her part, Zhang Ziyi stars anew in Wong Kar Wai's film, "2046," opposite Tony Leung. The film's story picks up right after the end of "In the Mood for Love":

ZHANG AND JUDD. Star in "2046" and "De-Lovely," respectively.

After Su Lizhen leaves, Zhou Muyun becomes a very lonely writer. He meets a prostitute (Zhang Ziyi) and spends a night with her in room 2046, the very same room where he had an affair with Su Lizhen.

Then, he starts writing a novel called "2046," in which he reunites with Su Lizhen. Chang Chen and Lau Kar-Ling play lovers; Wong Yaye and Kimura Takuya are cast as a pair of robot lovers. They are characters in the book, and they are all from the future.

'Secret Window'

Johnny Depp, John Turturro and Maria Bello star in the gripping suspense-thriller, "Secret Window," written and directed by David Koepp, based on Stephen King's novella, "Secret Window, Secret Garden."

In the film, Depp plays a successful author who's in the midst of a painful divorce that has sapped his energy and creativity.

To make things worse, a psychotic stranger (Turturro) accuses him of plagiarizing his story. Turturro becomes increasingly hostile, intimating a twisted kind of justice that could include cold-blooded murder.

Forced into a deadly game of cat and mouse, Depp's character discovers that he has more cunningness and determination than he ever imagined.

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moviettime SM CINEMA

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1 THE VILLAGE
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3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
5 CINDERELLA STORY
6 COLLATERAL
7 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
8 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
9 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
10 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
11 GARFIELD
12 STEPFORD'S WIVES

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749
1 CINDERELLA STORY
2 I, ROBOT
3 STEPFORD WIVES
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 THUNDERBIRDS
7 COLLATERAL
8 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
9 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
10 THE VILLAGE
11 GARFIELD
12 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

SM CITY MANILA 5239240
1 THUNDERBIRDS
2 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
3 THE VILLAGE
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
5 CINDERELLA STORY
6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
7 COLLATERAL
8 STEPFORD WIVES
9 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
10 ELLA ENCHANTED
11 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
12 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452
1 THE VILLAGE
2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 STEPFORD WIVES
5 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
6 THUNDERBIRDS
7 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY STA. MESA 7149522 • 7161496
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4 STEPFORD WIVES
5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
6 CINDERELLA STORY
7 THUNDERBIRDS
8 COLLATERAL
9 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
10 THE VILLAGE

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN 2514302
1 THUNDERBIRDS
2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

North

SM CITY MARILAO (044) 933 2013 to 17
1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 DEAD PEOPLE
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY PAMPANGA 7128015
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 CINDERELLA STORY
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 COLLATERAL
5 THE ALAMO
6 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

SM CITY BAGUIO (074) 4464505
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 WEREWOLF: GINGERSNAPS 2
3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4 GARFIELD

South

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1 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3 THUNDERBIRDS
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
5 COLLATERAL
6 THE VILLAGE
7 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
9 CINDERELLA STORY
10 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

SM CITY BICUTAN 7763055
1 THUNDERBIRDS
2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT 8294975
1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 THUNDERBIRDS
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

SM CITY BACOOR (046)4173868
1 COLLATERAL
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
5 THUNDERBIRDS
6 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
7 THE VILLAGE
8 LAWS OF ATTRACTION

SM CITY DASMA (046) 4323201-04
1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 DEAD PEOPLE
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY LUCENA (042) 7108977-80
1 THE VILLAGE
2 GARFIELD
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

Visayas & Mindanao

SM CITY CEBU (032) 2313876
1 PRAISE AND WORSHIP CONCERT
2 THE VILLAGE
3 THUNDERBIRDS
4 DIRTY DANCING: HAVANA KNIGHTS
5 COLLATERAL
6 THE ALAMO
7 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY ILOILO (033) 3209422
1 ETERNAL SUNSHINE...
2 RESERVED
3 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 GARFIELD
6 THE VILLAGE
7 RESERVED
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY DAVAO (082) 2976998
1 THE VILLAGE
2 THUNDERBIRDS
3 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
4 WEREWOLF: GINGERSNAPS 2
5 GARFIELD
6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO (088) 8592884
1 THE VILLAGE
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 ELLA ENCHANTED
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

—THE— PODIUM CINEMA

1
THUNDERBIRDS
11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

2
LAWS OF ATTRACTION
10:35 FS/11:05 MF/1:15/3:25/5:35/7:45/9:25 LFS/9:55 LMF/11:30 END

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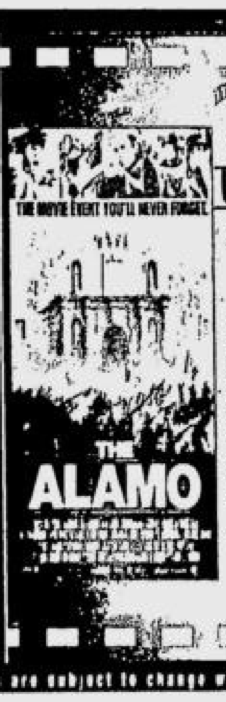
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THE ALAMO

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USA

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THE ALAMO

Dennis Quaid (The Day After Tomorrow) stars in this movie, set in the spring of 1836. Nearly 200 Texans men of all races who believed in the future of Texas held the fort for 13 days under siege by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, ruler of Mexico and commander of its forces. Led by three men – the young, brash Col. William Travis, the violent, passionate James Bowie, and the larger-than-life living legend David Crockett – the Texans and their deeds at the Alamo would pass into history as General Sam Houston's rallying cry for Texas independence and into legend for their symbolic significance.

Showing on
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SM City Pampanga
MTRCB RATING PG13
For Screening schedules Dial [illegible]

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MOVIE GUIDE
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SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171
1 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
PG - 13 / FS:12:50 pm, 3:05 pm, 5:20 pm, 7:35 pm, LMF: 9:50 pm
2 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES 2
GP / FS: 12:00 pm, 2:50 pm, 5:40 pm, LMF: 8:30 pm
3 (DOLBY) A CINDERELLA STORY
GP / FS:11:30 am, 1:30 pm, 3:30 pm, 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm, LMF: 9:30 pm
4 (DOLBY) THE STEPFORD WIVES
PG - 13 / FS:11:55 am, 2:10 pm, 4:25 pm, 6:40 pm LMF: 8:55 pm
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES 2
GP / FS: 12:30 pm, 3:20 pm, 6:10 pm, LMF: 9:00 pm

SUPER CINERAMA isetann
CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO tel 733.4238
1. (DOLBY) THUNDERBIRDS
2. ALIEN VS. PREDATO
3. RESERVED
4. PRINCESS DIARIES-2
5. HAMOG

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED
3 HAMOG
4 (SDDS) KARELASYON
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
7 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATO
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA 2000
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 HAMOG
2 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATO

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 HAMOG
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ALIEN VS. PREDATO
5 PRINCESS DIARIES-2

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 YOUNG VIRGIN
2 HAMOG
3 THUNDERBIRDS
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS. PREDATO
6 PRINCESS DIARIES-2

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) GARFIELD
2

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DTS) THE CINDERELLA STORY
2 (SDDS) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL
4 GOLD (DTS) THE STEPFORD WIVES
5 GOLD (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
6 GOLD (SDDS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
7 GOLD (DOLBY) LAWS OF ATTRACTION
8 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
9 BANGKOK HAUNTED
10 THUNDERBIRDS

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX
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3 (Dolby) PINCESS DIARIES 2
4 (SDDS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 (DTS) THUNDERBIRDS
6 (Dolby) LAWS OF ATTRACTION
7 (Dolby) NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 HAMOG
4 ALIENT VS. PREDATOR

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 (DTS EX) CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 THE CINDERELLA STORY
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
4 (DTS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 NIGHT MARE
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL
4 (DTS) THE CINDERELLA STORY

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 COLLATERAL

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DOLBY) THE STEPFORD WIVES
4 (DOLBY) THUNDERBIRDS

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926
1 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 (DTS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 (DTS) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DOLBY) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
4 SYLVIA

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.3146
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2 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DTS) ALIENT VS. PREDATOR
4 ELLA ENCHANTED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 RESERVED
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL
4 (DTS) ELLA ENCHANTED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3327
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 COLLATERAL
3 (DOLBY) NOW THAT I HAVE YOU

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) PEEP SHOW
2 HAMOG
3 HAYOP SA SEX APEAL
4 (DTS) TURN ON

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
2 HAYOP SA SEX APEAL
3 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 SPARTAN

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
2 GARFIELD
3 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 (DOLBY) THE VILLAGE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 DEAD PEOPLE
2 GARFIELD
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 THE VILLAGE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 HAMOG
2 CATWOMAN

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

JUAN. Theatrical.

From student to colleague

By Behn Cervantes

ANTON Juan was a rather flamboyant student in my acting class at UP. He was all over the place: eager to be the focus of attention, and liberal in giving pointed opinions on this play, that playwright or the latest movie. He was articulate and purposely shocking.

A product of Onofre Pagsanghan's Dulaang Sibol, he was adept in the visual arts and good in writing, too. He could play the piano, had some training in dance, and was shameless enough to sing whenever the spirit moved him.

In short, he was theatrical. He had the necessary skills and derring-do to become a good director.

Friends

We had become friends even before he became my student. We spent countless nights carousing in Ishmael Bernal's Grey November or Betsy Romualdez' Indios Bravos, watering holes of artists in the '70s.

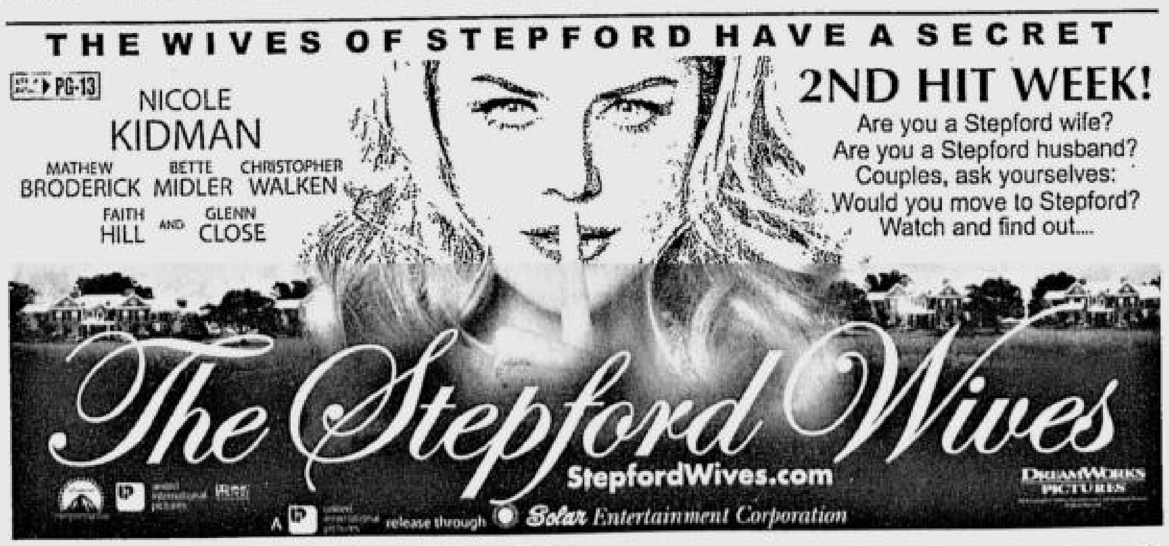
We appeared together in Repertory Philippines' "Mother Courage," with Bibot Amador, Ella Luansing, Baby Barredo, NUT, Leo Martinez, Roy Alvarez, Jonas Sebastian, Noel Mallonga, Enchang Agudo and Mitch Valdes.

Ballet

The members of that play's cast laughed amongst themselves when Anton was "shot" in one scene and fell on the Insular Life stage—with his toes pointed in a ballet position!

Since he could be brazen, I convinced him to cross the stage naked as a Greek statue in "Apollo of Bellac." To assuage an initial fear, I promised I would likewise cross naked from the other side of the stage. During the actual performance, I signaled for him to cross—but I never entered the stage myself. Thus, Anton did the first nude scene in Philippine Theater!

(To be concluded)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PG-13
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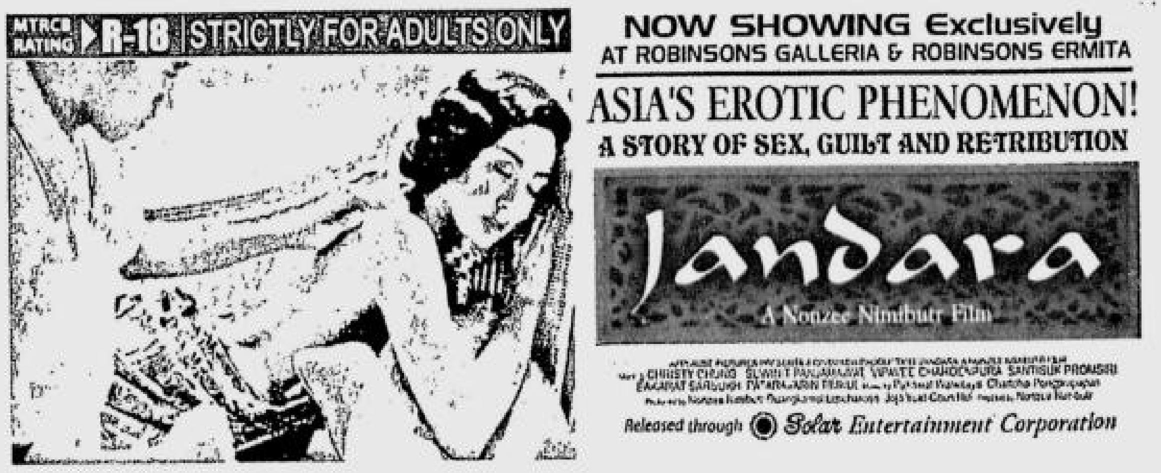
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Beyond cinematic junk food

SCORSESE. Directed the inspiring film, "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore."

By Nestor U. Torre

MOST of the time, people watch movies just to have a good time, and to escape from reality. That isn't a bad motivation—we all need a break from our chores and woes, after all—but too much of that can overstuff a moviegoer with cinematic junk food! Burp.

Once in a while, therefore, we should remind ourselves that, even when it comes to film viewing, it's garbage in, garbage out—and, more to the point, some of that garbage remains inside us, and becomes part of our psyche.

So, if you like watching one grisly horror flick after another, is there a chainsaw in your personal horizon?

Escapist romantic melodramas with pluperfect people wafting their way through splendiferous mansions and other monuments to elegant excess can make you a shallow marshmallow.

And cynical, pessimistic and nihilist "entertainment" can paint your own universe a hopeless shade of bleak.

Outlook

What to do? We must tell ourselves that there are movies that go beyond aspiring to be cinematic junk food, that opt to inspire, transform and redeem, and these are the films that we should patronize if we want to improve our outlook on life.

But, we should also remind ourselves that well-meaning movies shouldn't be facile, goody-two-shoes productions written, produced and directed by Polly Pollyanna.

BEYOND/ D7

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ALIEN VS. PREDATOR PG13 1:45,4:10,6:35,9:00	PRINCESS DIARIES 2 GP 12:00,2:30,5:00,7:30,10:00	PRINCESS DIARIES 2 GP 1:50,4:20,6:50,9:20
STEPFORD WIVES PG13 1:30,3:35,5:40,7:45,9:50	THUNDERBIRDS GP 112:30,2:55, 5:20,7:45,10:10	LAWS OF ATTRACTION PG13 12:30,2:30,4:30, 6:30,8:30,10:30

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1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
FS 12 50 pm 3 05 pm 5 20 pm, 7 35 pm LMF 9 50 pm (PG-13)

3 A CINDERELLA STORY
FS 11 30 am 1 30 pm 3 30 pm, 5 30 pm 7 30 pm, LMF 9 30 pm (GP)

2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
FS 12 00 pm 2 50 pm 5 40 pm LMF 8 30 pm (GP)

4 THE STEPFORD WIVES
FS 11 55 am 2 10 pm 4 25 pm 6 40 pm LMF 8 55 pm (PG-13)

PREMIERE THEATRE
PRINCESS DIARIES 2
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GP

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P13

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MTRCB PG-13
WHOEVER WINS... WE LOSE.
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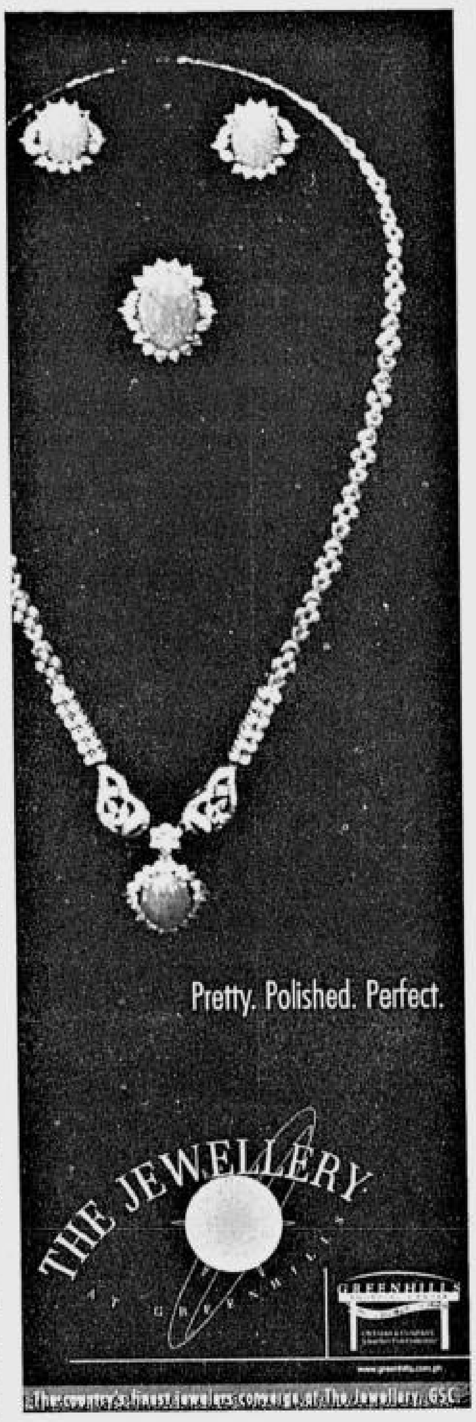
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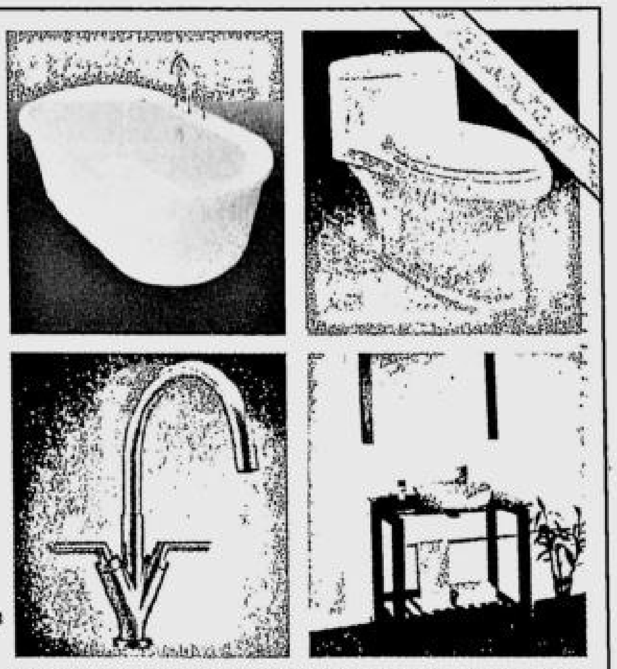

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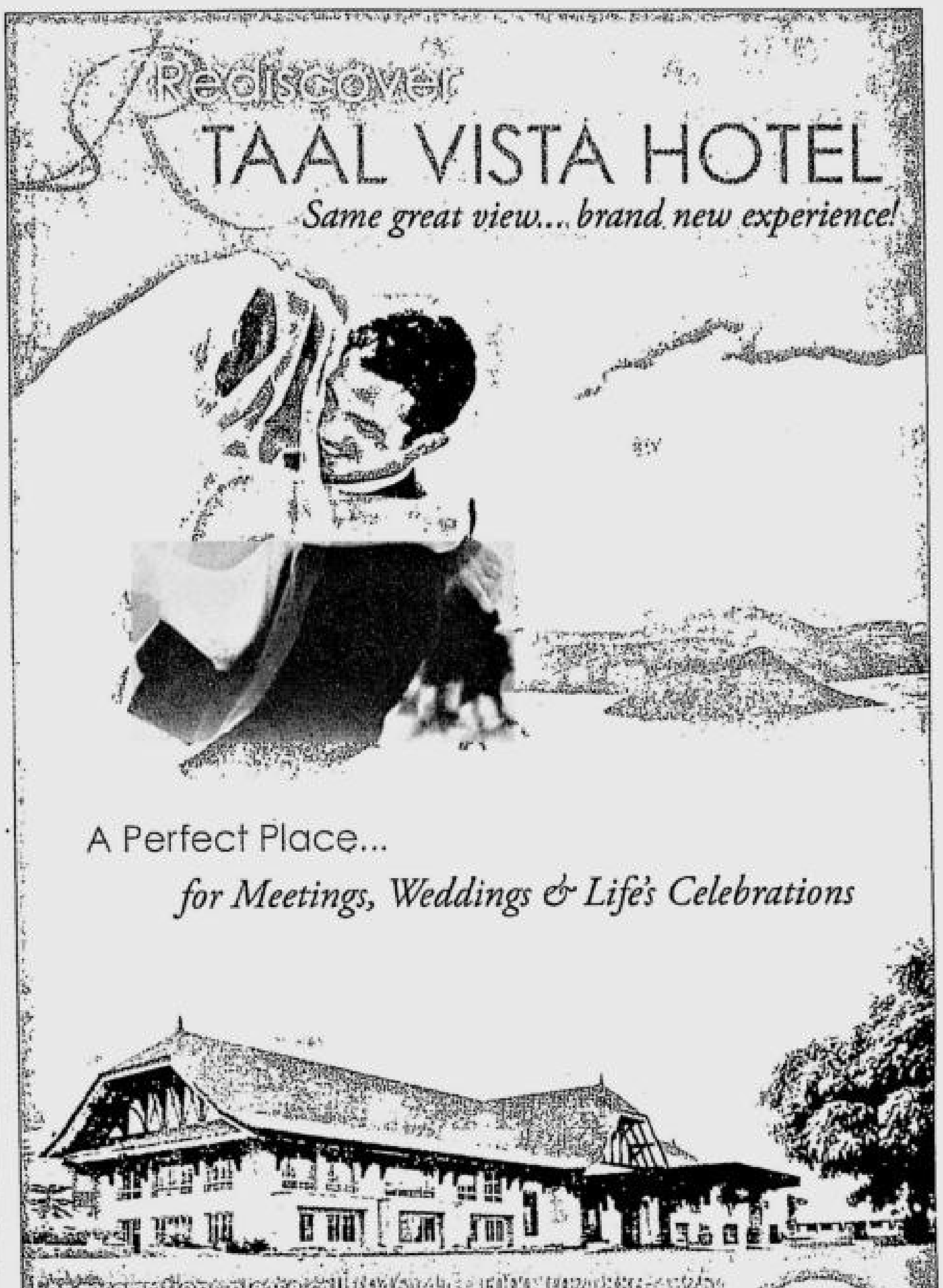
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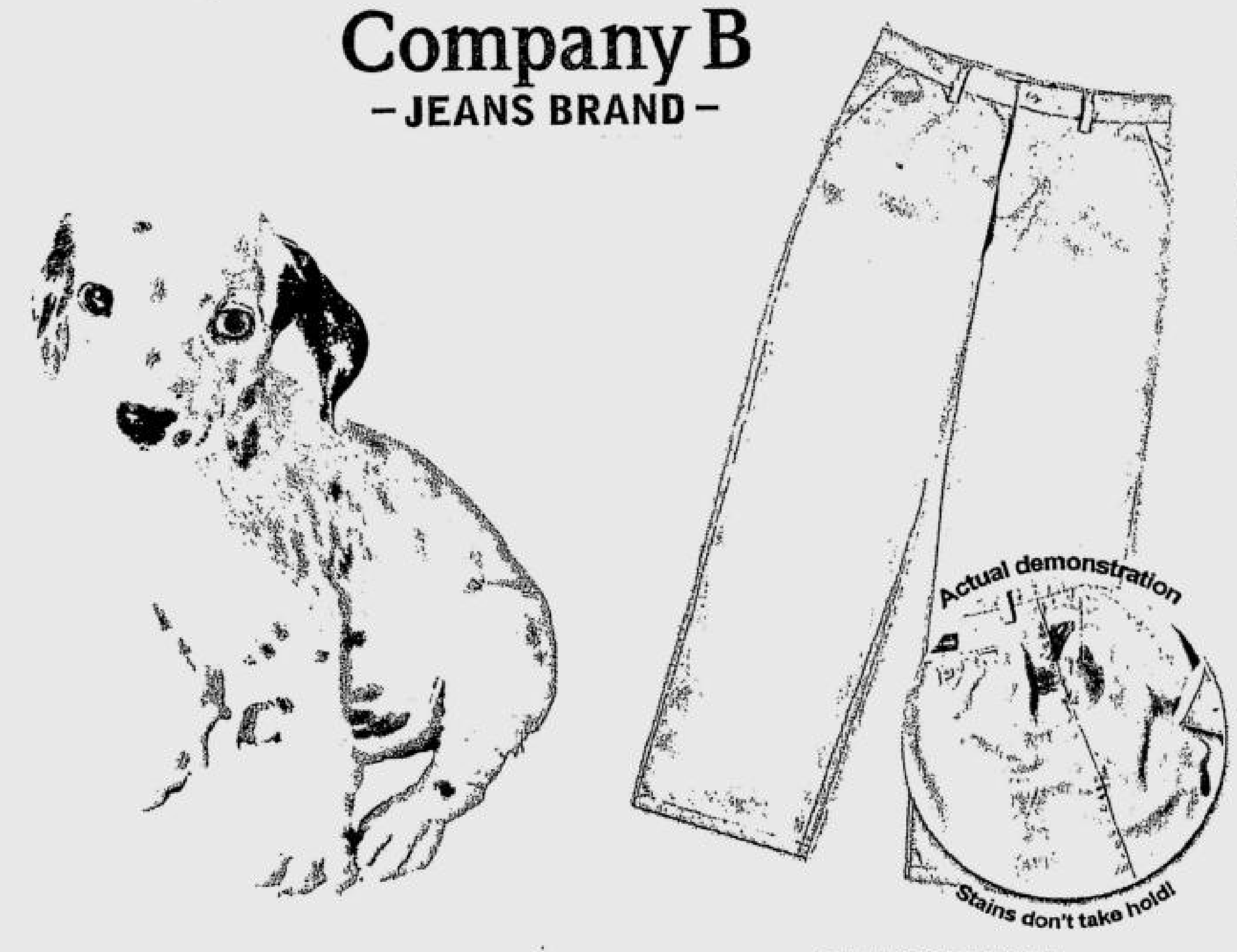

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2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	3 JANDARA 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	4 THUNDERBIRDS 10:40, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
5 LAWS OF ATTRACTION 10:40, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	7 A CINDERELLA STORY
8 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 10:40, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	9 THE STEPFORD WIVES 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	10 THE VILLAGE 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

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ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40

2 JANDARA 10:40, 12:55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 9:50	3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	4 THE STEPFORD WIVES
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 11:30, 1:35, 3:40, 5:45, 7:50, 9:55	6 LAWS OF ATTRACTION 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50	7 THUNDERBIRDS 11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:20, 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1 LAWS OF ATTRACTION 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00	2 THUNDERBIRDS 11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10	
3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55	4 THE VILLAGE 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00	5 PRINCESS DIARIES 2 11:55, 2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:30
6 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 8:45, 10:30	7 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00	8 HAMOG 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00

NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW 935-3229 / 31

1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30	2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2 10:15, 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:00	
3 THUNDERBIRDS 10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30	4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30	5 PRINCESS DIARIES 2 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00
6 LAWS OF ATTRACTION 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:30	7 HAMOG 10:15, 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:00	8 THE VILLAGE 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575	CAINTA 240-4661	STA. ROSA (049)837-0907
1 HAMOG	1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	1 ETRNAL SUNSHINE
2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	2 DEAD PEOPLE
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	3 HAMOG	3 MANO-MANO 3
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
		5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870	DASMARIÑAS 852-2125 / 416-4332	STARMILLS 875-1927 / 961-5270
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 GARFIELD	2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	2 MAKAMUNDO
3 DEAD PEOPLE	3 DEAD PEOPLE	3 A CINDERELLA STORY
4 MAKAMUNDO	4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE	4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 THE VILLAGE	5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
		6 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858	BACOLOD 441-0458/59	ILOILO 336-8070/78
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	1 THE VILLAGE
2 HAMOG	2 GARFIELD	2 GARFIELD
3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	3 THE VILLAGE	3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	5 DEAD PEOPLE	5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2	6 MAKAMUNDO	6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

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ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
THX 1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	1 LAWS OF ATTRACTION	1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 LAWS OF ATTRACTION 2 45, 4 50, 6 55, 9 00, 11 05	1 THUNDERBIRDS
2 LAWS OF ATTRACTION	2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2	2 THUNDERBIRDS	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2 1 55, 4 15, 6 35, 8 55, 11 15	2 THE VILLAGE
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 LAWS OF ATTRACTION [illegible]	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 A CINDERELLA STORY 1 30, 3 30, 5 30, 7 30, 9 30, 11 30	3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 THUNDERBIRDS	4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	4 THE VILLAGE	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 THE STEPFORD WIVES 1 30, 3 30, 5 30, 7 30, 9 30, 11 30	4 DIRTY DANCING 2
5 THE STEPFORD WIVES		5 A CINDERELLA STORY	GUARANTEED SEATS 5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 2 35, 4 45, 6 55, 9 05, 11 15	5 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
		6 PRINCESS DIARIES 2		
		7 THE STEPFORD WIVES		

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 LAWS OF ATTRACTION 11 55, 2 00, 4 05, 6 10, 8 15
2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2 12 30, 2 50, 5 10, 7 30, 9 50

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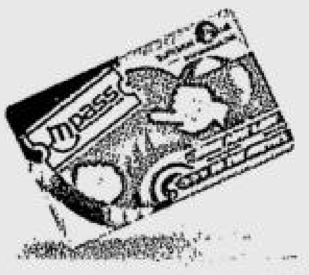

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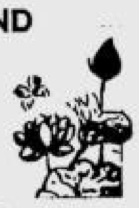


R. Valencia and S. Bismark

Cooking with coco milk

THE COCONUT milk is amazing. Kathy Hoshijo writes: "Coconut milk, blended with almonds and then strained, is closer to a human moth er's milk in nutritional content than any other milk."

On its own, though, coco milk is high in fat, but low in protein, calcium and phosphorus.

Coconut is a great flavor enhancer and base for dishes. It enriches the taste of vegetables and fruits.

Recipe

My vegetarian friends have discovered that a *kare-kare* recipe from Cavite uses coconut milk to enrich the basic sauce. The blend of roasted rice, ground peanuts and coconut milk results in an awesomely rich flavor. No need to mix meat products. Simply add different vegetables.

One way to enhance *lumpiang ubod* is to cook the *ubod* in coconut milk before putting it in the wrapper. The *ubod* becomes sweeter, and acquires a creamy sauce that keeps it moist and flavorful.

When cooking vegetables in coconut milk, simply sauté finely-chopped ginger and spring onions before adding vegetables with coco milk. You can use lemon grass to add a lemony taste by tying it in bundles along with the vegetables. Thick coco milk is added.

Rich in protein

Aside from the well-known *laing*, which uses young taro leaves and chilies, one of our favorites is *sayote* fruit and tops dipped in coconut milk. You can also use grated santol flesh.

A friend has developed a wonderful way of cooking jackfruit. She boils mongo bits and adds them to the jackfruit cooking in coco milk. She adds ginger and turmeric to flavor. Thick coco milk is added almost at the tail end. Salt to taste.

You can also use coco milk in *kilawin*. Boil jackfruit until it's tender. Allow to cool. Simmer coco milk till warm. Add apple cider vinegar and a little sugar. Turn off heat. Chop fresh tomatoes, ginger, spring onion leaves, and mix with jackfruit and coco milk. Salt to taste.

Learn to use coconut milk. It is an abundant resource that adds richness to dishes!

Email lotuspond108@hotmail.com

Heart Evangelista on L Time Studio

MONTAGE

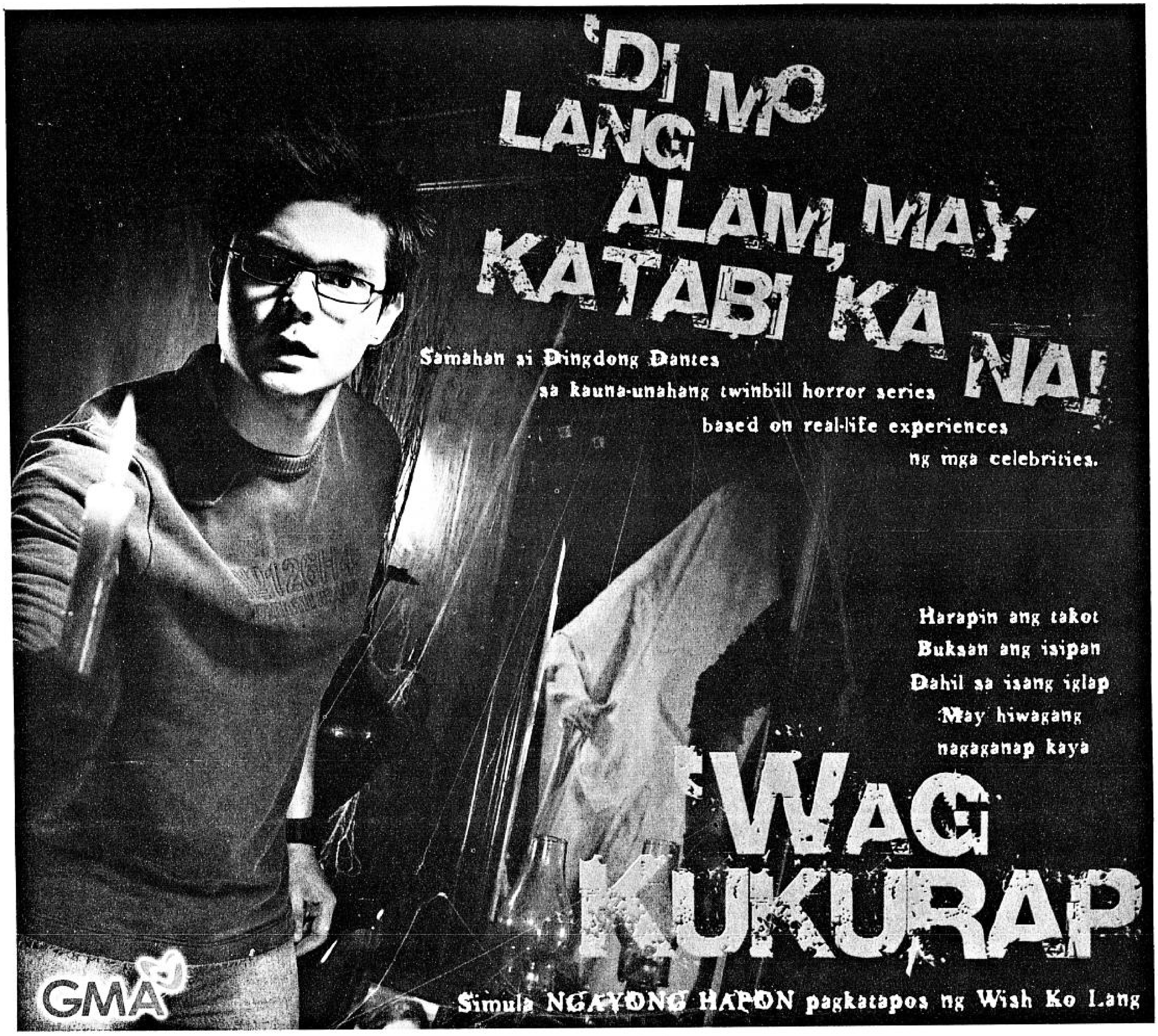
WITH her busy show biz schedule, Heart Evangelista requires an effective watch that can keep track of that which she holds most valuable—her precious time.

"But, it can't be just any ordinary watch, it has to express my personality," she points out.

When her liking for quality and trendy timepieces calls, L Time Studio is the place she goes to. L Time Studio is housed in different malls and provides a wide range of choices that go from leather, metals, sporty, collectibles, and designer brands.

HEART/D6

EVANGELISTA. Her watch should express her personality.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With Co. B StressFree Khakis, water and other liquids just bead up and run off. No more looking like a wet dog. Co. B StressFree Khakis. They're man's best friend.

Heart Evangelista . . .

From page D5

NINA. Exudes subtle femininity.

Heart thinks her Nike watch can be used everyday because of its casual design and durability. On the other hand, the Fossil stone-studded dial piece is the most versatile.

When asked to wrap up I. Time in five words, Heart summarizes it as the shop that embodies "Variety, Location, Brands, Quality, and Versatility!"

'Real Olympics'

The Discovery Channel's two-hour "Real Olympics" special (10 p.m., Aug. 30) recreates virtually every event in the Ancient Games, from chariot racing to combat sports.

The program highlights the dramatic difference in the Olympics, then and now. In both cases, the Games were a celebration of human prowess and achievement based on a strong set of ideals—but they were very different ideals!

Small Office Home Office Fair

The first Small Office Home Office Fair opens its doors to home-office practitioners today at SM Megatrade Hall.

Organized by Protégé, Inc. and presented by Epson, the fair will have innovative features:

The DTI-Philippine Trade Training Center (DTI-PTTC) will conduct a talk on "How to start a business." This will be followed by short lectures by training schools on businesses that can be done at home; Technology & Livelihood Resource Center's "Photo transfer and design in ceramics," and Businessmaker Academy's "Events planning".

"Home Office Technology" is the theme of the program of the SOHO fair.

"Work-at-Home Mom's Day" features a talk by Women's Business Council on "Running a home office".

The Meet-Up Day with Freelancers will be at the café area today, and is a chance to network with peers and potential employers. Epson will give away a scanner to the freelancer who best describes why "Home office is great." Call Protégé, Inc. at 6376979 or visit their website at www.ruby-comm.com/protégé_soho.

Nina's choice

When it comes to scents, singer Nina's choice is the new Ellips cologne. It has a cool and fresh scent that leaves a "scentsational" feeling.

Nina has been chosen to endorse the Ellips cologne because she embodies today's young woman, who exudes subtle femininity that is seductively attractive to the opposite sex.

Ellips comes in five variants—Cutie, Missy, Doll, Preppy and Pixie.

Motorola E398 converts

The first stereo surround sound mobile phone in the Philippines, the new Motorola E398, has made converts of Manu Sandejas, Ryan Agoncillo, Iya Yotoko, Melissa Frye, JM Rodriguez, Wendell Garcia, Bad Boy Jeff, Patty Laurel, Luke Mejares—and then some!

The Motorola E398 has dual 16mm 22khz speakers with vibration in a 110g handset. It allows storage and swapping movies and videos with next generation TransFlash removable memory.

Movies on TV

On HBO, Aug. 28 at 10:55 p.m., "A Beautiful Mind." Aug. 29 at 8 p.m., "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers." Aug. 30 at 9 p.m., "Spider-Man." Aug. 31 at 10 p.m., "Sex and the City: The Perfect Present."

On Cinemax, Aug. 28 at 7:15 p.m., "The Butcher's Wife." Aug. 29 at 4:15 p.m., "Mrs. Winterbourne." Aug. 30 at 10 a.m., "Slackers." Aug. 31 at 12:30 p.m., "Vanilla Sky."

THE NOTEBOOK
ANOTHER SWEEPING LOVE STORY BASED ON THE BEST-SELLER NICHOLAS SPARKS

RACHEL MCADAMS AND RYAN GOSLING

They say you never forget your first love-that definitely is the case in The Notebook, adapted from Nicholas Sparks' best-selling novel by director Nick Cassavetes (John Q) and screen writers Jeremy Leven (Don Juan DeMarco) and Jan Sardi. A sweeping love story told by a man reading from his faded notebook (Academy Award Nominee James Garner) to a woman in a nursing home (Academy Award Nominee Gena Rowlands). The Notebook follows the lives of two Carolina teens from very different worlds (up-and-comers Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams). Though her upbringing takes place in anantebellum mansion and he in the king of house where musicians jam on the porch, that doesn't stop Noah and Allie from spending one indelible summer together before they are separated, first by her parents and then by WWII. After the soldiers come home, everything changes. Allie is engaged Though her upbringing takes place in anantebellum mansion to a successful businessman and Noah lives alone with his memories in a 200-year-old house he lovingly restores. But when Allie sees an article in a local paper about Noah's handiwork, she knows that she's got to find him and make a decision once and for all about a part in her life-and her love.

ADVT

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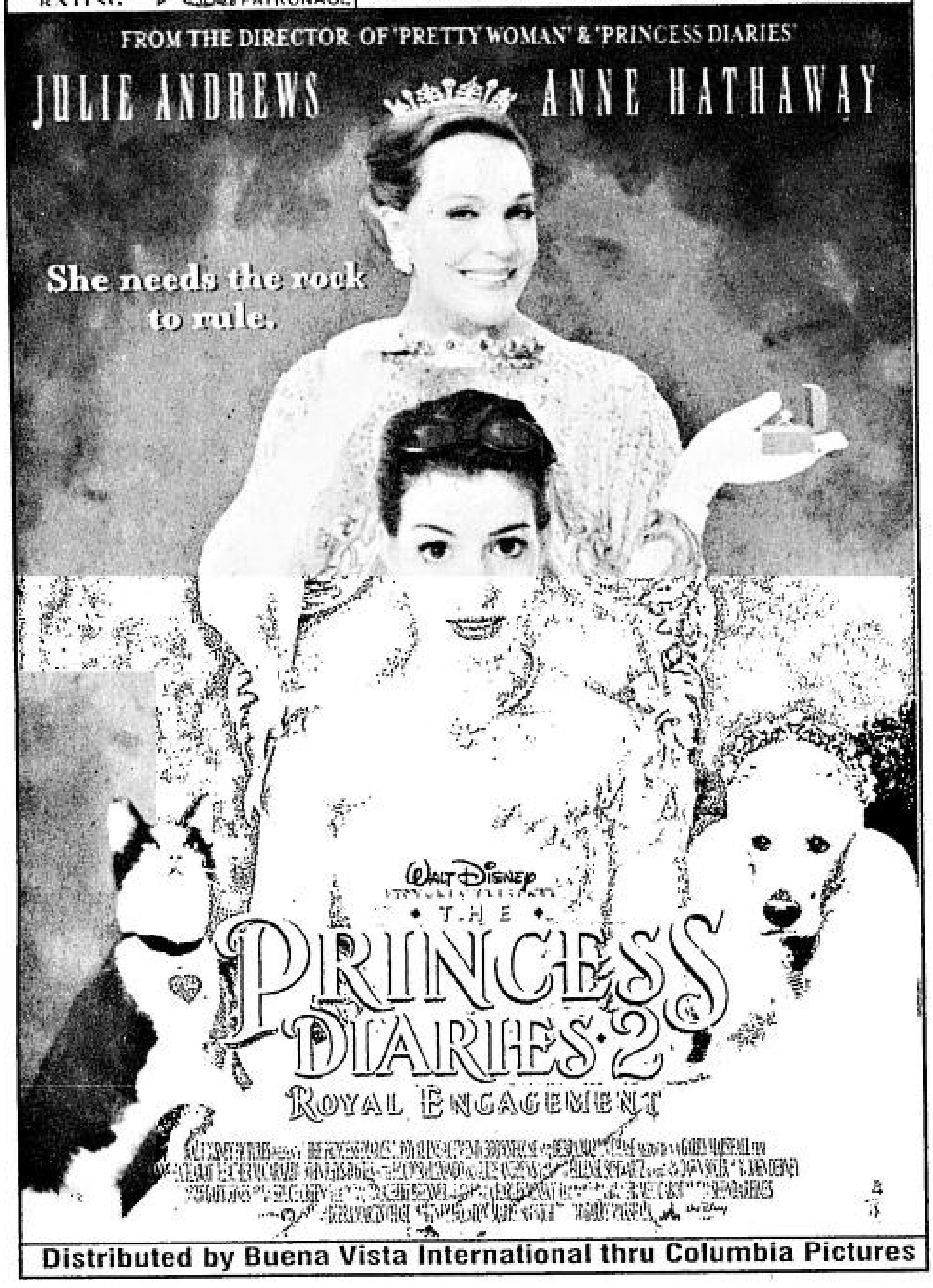

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'PRETTY WOMAN' & 'PRINCESS DIARIES'
JULIE ANDREWS
ANNE HATHAWAY
She needs the rock to rule.
Walt Disney Pictures
The Princess Diaries 2
Royal Engagement

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

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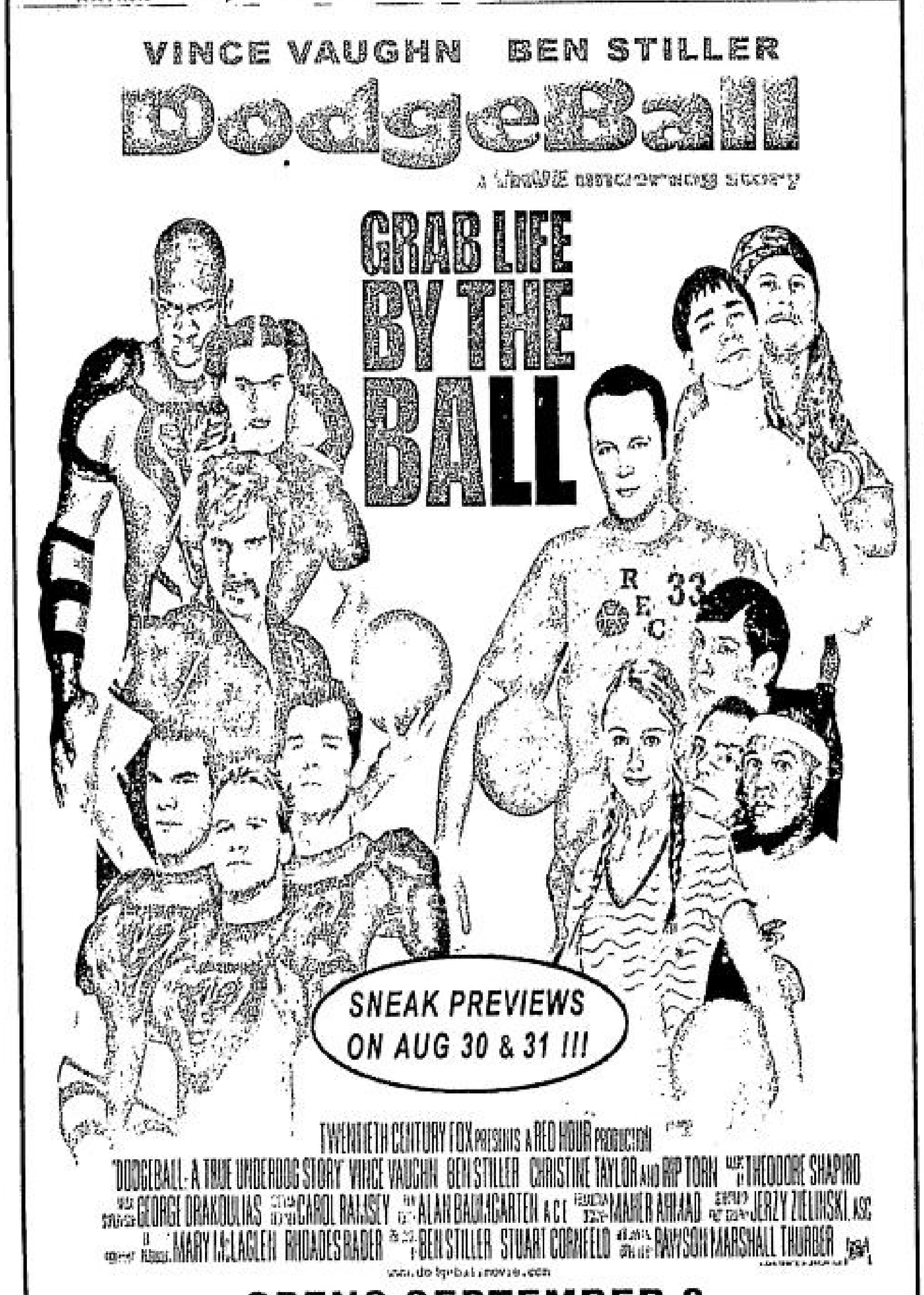

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OPENS SEPTEMBER 8

Araneta Center

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

3 Dolby PRINCESS DIARIES 2
11:55 am 2:10 pm 4:25 pm 6:40 pm 8:55 pm

4 SDDS ALIEN vs PREDATOR
12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm

5 dts THUNDERBIRDS
11:55 am 2:10 pm 4:25 pm 6:40 pm 8:55 pm

6 Dolby LAWS OF ATTRACTION
11:55 am 2:10 pm 4:25 pm 6:40 pm 8:55 pm

7 Dolby NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
11:55 am 2:10 pm 4:25 pm 6:40 pm 8:55 pm

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MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	HAMOG
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	HAMOG
B	CLOSED
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1, 2, 3 & 4	ALIEN VS PREDATOR/STEPFORD WIVES/CINDERELLA STORY/THE VILLAGE
PREMIERE THEATRE	STEPFORD WIVES
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	GARFIELD
CINEMA-2	HAMOG
CINEMA-3	STEFORD WIVES
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	COLLATERAL
CINEMA-6	VILLAGE
CINEMA-7	CINDERELLA STORY
CINEMA-8	KARELASYON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	THUNDERBIRDS
CINEMA-12	LAWS OF ATTRACTION
CINEMA-14	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
CINEMA-15	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
CINEMA-2	GARFIELD
CINEMA-4	[illegible]
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

SM CINEMA

what to watch

Adventure

THUNDERBIRDS

Having narrowly averted a major disaster on an oil rig, the Thunderbirds have just returned home to their secret base when TB5, their space based station, is critically damaged in a suspected meteor strike. Unbeknown to them, the attack on TB5 is a deliberate ploy by international master criminal Aristotle Spode to get them off the island. He takes over the island and forces Brains into submission, using the power of his mind. But Spode has overlooked one key factor: Alan, Fermat and Tin Tin are still on the island.

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'SACRILEGE'

Play on faith beyond organized religion

MONSOD. Leads cast of New Voice's provocative drama.

By Rito P. Asilo

"Love your neighbor as yourself' doesn't mean *instead* of yourself." This is just one of the memorable lines delivered by Sister Grace, the nun at the core of Diane Shaffer's deeply provocative drama, "Sacrilege," New Voice's latest production, which will open on Sept. 3 at the Republic of Malate. (The Broadway staging starred Ellen Burstyn).

The play, topbilled by NVC's favorite actress, Tami Monsod (as Sister Grace) and Leo Rialp (as Cardinal King), explores the dynamics of faith, gender equality and, more specifically, the issue of women in the priesthood.

Feminism

Shaffer's cerebral take on feminism and religion is as timely now as it was when "Sacrilege" was first staged on Broadway.

In 1995, the debate about women in the priesthood was decreed by the Pope, through his "Letter to Women," closed to discussion. But, the debate has been sparked anew by Cardinal Ratzinger's "Letter to the Bishops on the Collaboration of Men and Women," issued last month.

Relevant

"Sacrilege" is not a stereotypical drama that presents its characters in black and white—it's about people who passionately fight for what they believe is right. In a Catholic country like ours, you can't be more relevant than that!

In an ever-changing world with continuously changing needs, should tenets remain unchanged? When we asked some nuns about the issue of priesthood, many admitted that, while it wasn't for them, it could be some other nun's "calling." A priest told us: "The way of God is the way of change," but the process of change in the church is very slow.

On Sept. 3, 4, 10 and 11 at 9 p.m. (with Saturday matinees at 4), NVC gathers some of Philippine theater's most talented actors: Monsod, Rialp, Jamie Wilson, Paul Holme, Michael Williams, Jenny Jamora, Lara de Jesus and Rabbi Gannaban.

Right or wrong

What makes the staging of "Sacrilege" special is not so much whether it's right or wrong to allow women to become priests. More than anything, it's the arguments and issues at play that resonate: birth control, church and politics, gender equality, sexual abuse—and faith.

The play jolts us out of spiritual stupor. Seeing issues in a new light will make lapsed Catholics realize that their participation in the life of the church has become sadly nominal. When we acknowledge our failures and weaknesses, we are reminded that these moments of vulnerability can be the perfect time to rediscover our relationship with God—a bond that transcends sex and religion.

Call NVC at 896-5497 or 899-0630.

Beyond

From page D3

To inspire, movies should first show the mess that they seek to set right, otherwise their happy endings will feel too slap-happy to be believed, or to truly affect viewers for the better.

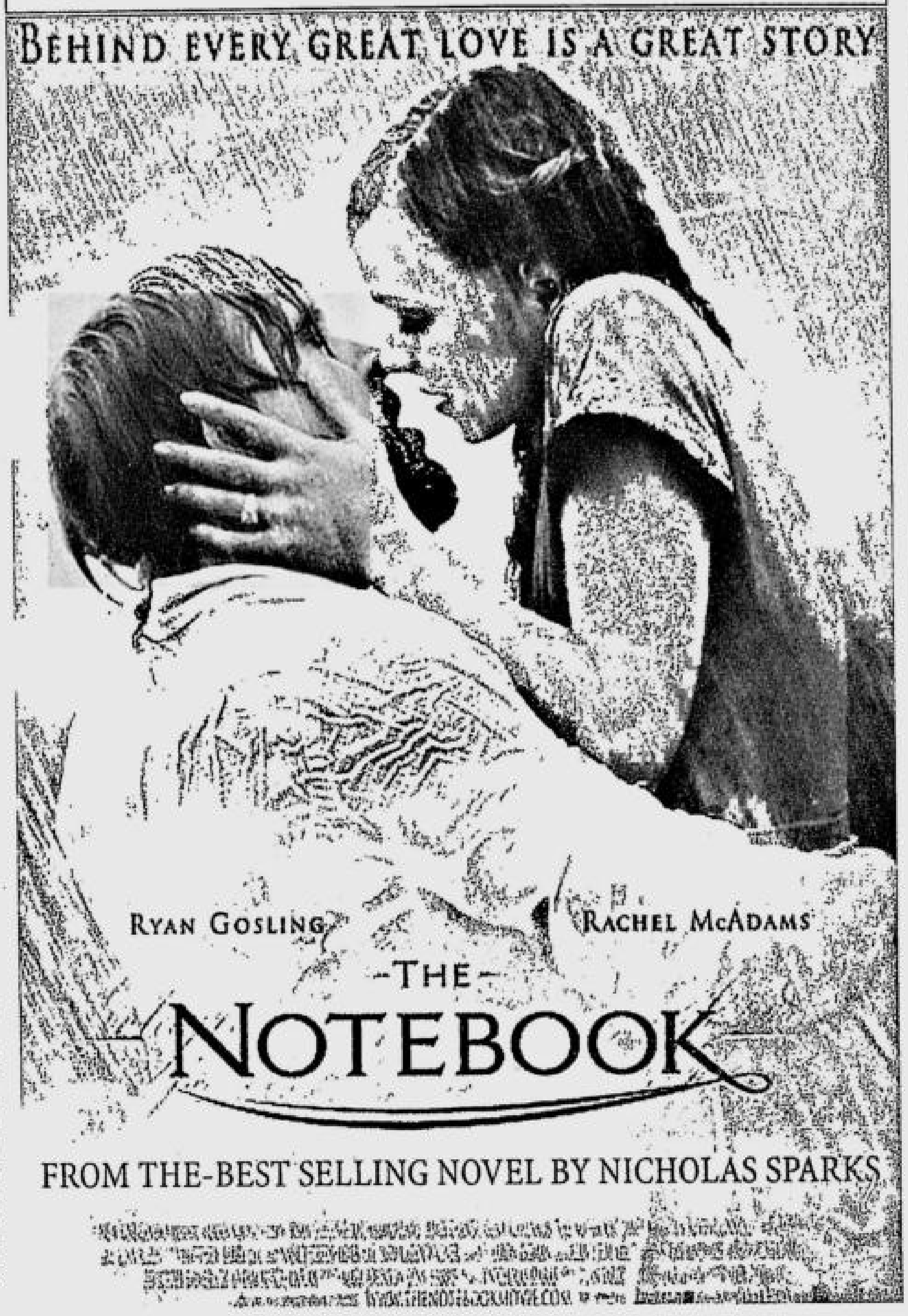
Inspiring themes

Some laudable films and their inspiring themes:

"Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore." Ellen Burstyn took home an Oscar for her fine performance in this film by Martin Scorsese. She plays a widow and mother of a young boy who learns to survive alone while holding on to her dream of fame as a singer.

(To be concluded)

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
OPENS SEPTEMBER 1



BEHIND EVERY GREAT LOVE IS A GREAT STORY
RYAN GOSLING
RACHEL MCADAMS
THE NOTEBOOK
FROM THE BEST SELLING NOVEL BY NICHOLAS SPARKS

18th AnniberSaya! Text mong Ilgaya!
VideoCity
Text-a-Prize
Win!

18 LG 29" Flat TV &DVD Home Theater System
18 LG VCD Components
18 LG DVD/VHS Combo Players
18 Nokia 6600 Cellular Phones
18 G-Shock Watches
18 Baby-G Watches
18 P10,000 In Cash

MECHANICS

1 This promo is open to all Video City members, Smart, Globe and Sun Cellular subscribers. The service shall use the service number 2910. All messages sent are charged P2.50 for both prepaid and postpaid subscribers & P2.00 for both prepaid and postpaid Sun Cellular subscribers.
2. For every two (2) video rentals (any format) in a single transaction, a Video City member is entitled to a sticker code. This sticker code contains the text code that subscriber will be texting to service #2910. The sticker code will be attached to the receipt that enables the member to join the promo.
3. To join the promo, subscribers must register first and be a Video City member. To be a member of Video City, subscriber must sign up in any Video City Branch. To register a subscriber must key VCT together with the text code indicated in the sticker, letter of the chosen prize, name & address, Video City branch & send to 2910. Registration is free of charge.
Ex. VCT abc123 A Mike Cruz 45 President's Ave. Parañaque City BF branch
4. Succeeding text code entries need not include registration info
Ex. VCT abc123 A
5. After successfully keying in the valid text code, the subscriber will receive the following text message as confirmation:
EX. 1/2 Ur now registered for the Video City Text-A-Prize promo! Keep your stub n present it when claiming your prize if drawn winner! P2.50/ text. Promo ends Oct. 3. DTI #xxxx
2/2 Get a chance 2 win Salon GC's/VCD's/free rental daily, 10K/N6600/DVD-VHS player/G-Shock/Baby-G weekly or LG Home Theater/VCD Component in grand draw!
6. There will be two Grand Prizes to choose from, codes as follows:
A - LG Home Entertainment System consist of 73.66 cm (29") colored TV & Home Theater System (18 winners)
B - LG VCD Component (18 winners)
Consolation prizes will be:
DAILY PRIZES:
Headway Salon Gift Certificates worth P300 Tomas Morato branch - 45 winners
Assorted VCD's - 45 winners
WEEKLY PRIZES:
Php 10,000 in cash 18 winners
Nokia 6600 - 18 winners
Casio G-Shock watches - 18 winners
Casio Baby-G watches, 18 winners
LG DVD/VHS combo players - 18 winners
7. Promo period is from August 20, 2004 to October 3, 2004 (45 days). Promo is available Nationwide
8. Daily draws will include all raffle entries earned for the day from 12:01am to 11:59pm. Weekly draws will include all raffle entries earned for the week from 12:01am Friday to 11:59pm Thursday. For the grand draw all entries earned from 12:01am of Aug 20 to 11:59 pm Oct 3, 2004 will be valid entries for the Grand Draw.
9 All non winning entries per draw will not be included in the succeeding draws but will be included in the grand draw.
10 A participant can win only one daily & weekly prize for the entire promo period. However, a daily & weekly prize winner can still qualify in the grand draw.
11 Only registered participants can win. Registration is one time only, one name per cellphone number only.
12 Winners will be notified through their mobile phones & registered mail. Only subscribers with complete registration information are qualified to win.
13 20% Tax for prizes exceeding P10,000.00 will be shouldered by the winner. Prizes in kind are not convertible to cash.
14 Drawing of winners will be at Entertainment Gateway Group office at 3rd Flr., Makati Finance Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City on Aug 30, Sept 6, Sept 13, Sept 20, Sept 27 & Oct 8, 2004 at 5:00pm.
15 Winners must present their active cellphone with the winning SIM card, registered mail, valid stub and valid photo I.D. with signature to collect the prize.
16 Prizes may be claimed at the following:
Metro Manila c/o Ms. Ana V. Ang - Video City Head Office 7th Floor East Tower P.S.E.C. Exchange Road, Ortigas Center Pasig City
Luzon/Visayas/Mindanao - at the Video City branch where winner is a member
17 Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited in favor of Viva Video City, Inc. with prior DTI approval.
18 All employees of Entertainment Gateway Group, Smart Communications, Globe Telecom, Sun Cellular and Viva Entertainment Group, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from participating in this promo.
19 All Nokia handsets (except the Nokia 9210/9210i handsets) are capable of accepting/receiving tones. All Siemens (except the Siemens A35 handset) are capable of accepting/receiving tones. The following Nokia phones are capable of downloading picture messages: 3210, 3310, 3315, 3330, 3350, 5210, 6210, 6250, 6310, 6610, 6100, 6650, 7210, 7650, 8210, 8250, 8310, 8850, 8890 & 8910. For MMS downloads, all MMS-capable Nokia cell phones and Ericsson T68

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4266, Series of 2004

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MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

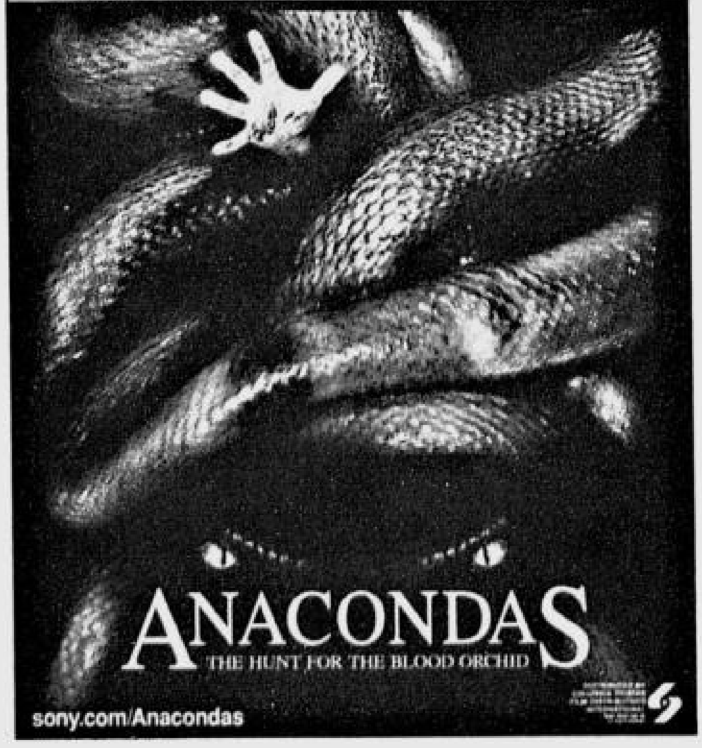
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
11:45, 2:20, 4:55
7:20, 10:20
PG-13

2 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
12:00, 2:30, 5:00
7:20, 10:20
GP

3 STEPFORD WIVES
11:50, 2:00, 4:10
6:20, 8:30, 10:40
PG-13

4 THUNDERBIRDS
12:00, 2:40, 5:20
8:00, 10:40
GP

Warning: Hungry 50-Foot Snakes on the Loose!
ANACONDAS ATTACK SEPT. 1
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13



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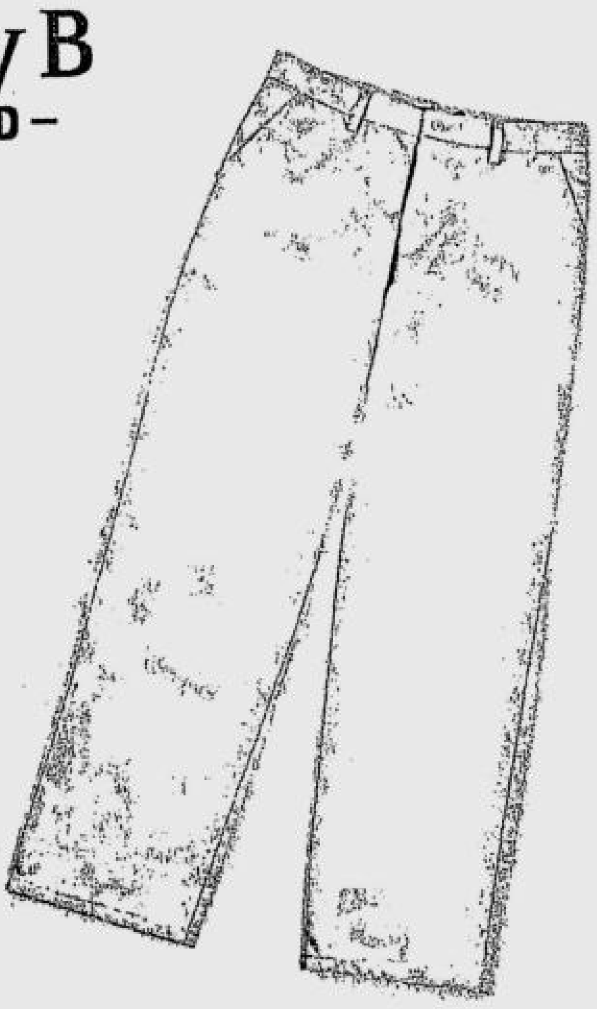
- JEANS BRAND -



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Promo runs until Aug. 31, 2004. See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3838, Series of 2004.

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Aliw award affirms Karel's exceptional gift

By Nestor U. Torre

MARQUEZ. Her love for performing bloomed during "Magnificat" rehearsals.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

WHEN the Aliw Foundation recently gave its Best New Female Artist trophy to Karel Marquez, the cast members of Ryan Cayabyab's long-running religious musical, "Magnificat," were especially thrilled, because they had practically seen the popular teen talent grow up in front of their very eyes.

This was because, since 1995, the musical had been holding some of its rehearsals in the home of lead singer-actress Pinky Marquez, Karel's mom. It was only natural, therefore, that as a child, Karel occasionally did some walk-on bits in the show.

Passion for theater

In some TV interviews, Karel has said that her love for performing bloomed during those rehearsals and performances, during which she imbibed the passion for theater that her mother Pinky shared with the musical's other original performers, like Andy Bais, Rito Asilo, Jingle Buena, Dulce and Bodjie Pascua.

For our part, we have always been struck by Karel's unique combination of "Frenchy" looks and husky singing voice. We urged Pinky to give her young daughter opportunities to perform, but it took years before Karel herself realized that she felt most fulfilled when she was singing and acting.

Once she had come to that realization, however, nothing could stop the already teenage Karel from quickly making her mark in the biz.

As an actress, she became a regular on some TV shows for teen viewers. Then, her singing talent got noticed when she guested in some musical programs. Her unusual one-two punch in terms of acting and singing made her stand out even more in a field of beautiful young talents—who could do neither well!

Career boost

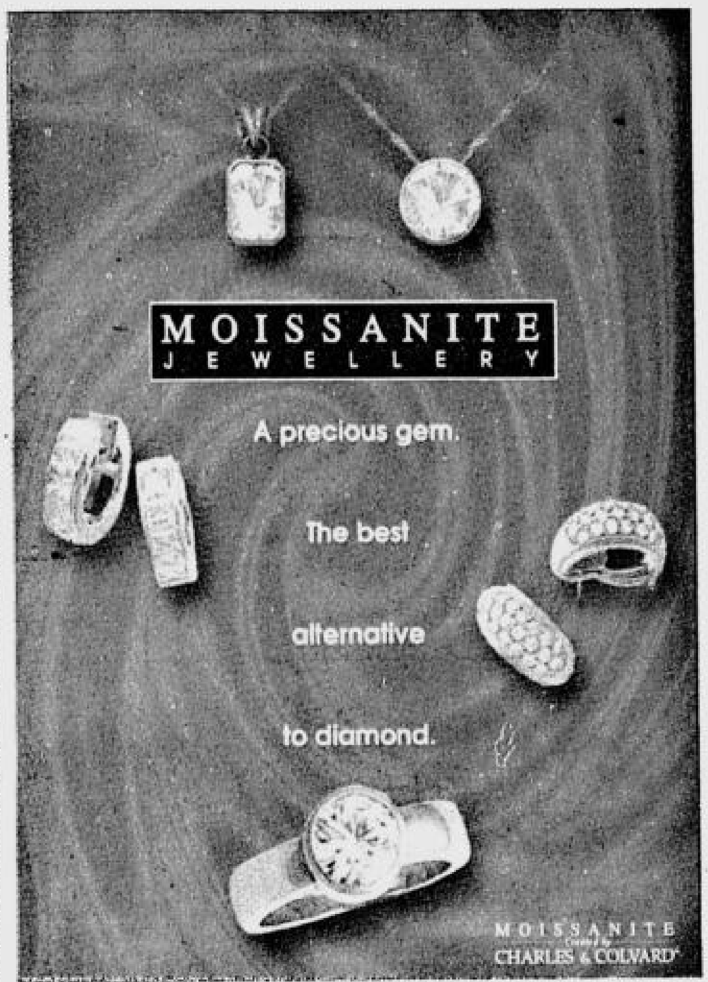
But Karel's biggest career boost came when she was chosen over many other auditionees for the coveted slot of veejay.

Despite all these successes, Karel continues to dream of doing more than just walk-on roles in theatrical productions. Which is why we sat down with Pinky to conceptualize a play that will star Pinky and Karel in a story about a mother and daughter, to be mounted early next year.

When we recently had our first reading of the script at their home in Magallanes Village, both Karel and Pinky empathized strongly with the characters they were playing.

Karel said she was thrilled to be playing her first major role onstage, and was especially delighted that she was acting with her mother.

Karel's new Aliw award affirms what those who've known her for years have long been aware of: That she's a young talent with a genuine gift *and* love for performing that will take her far in the field of entertainment!



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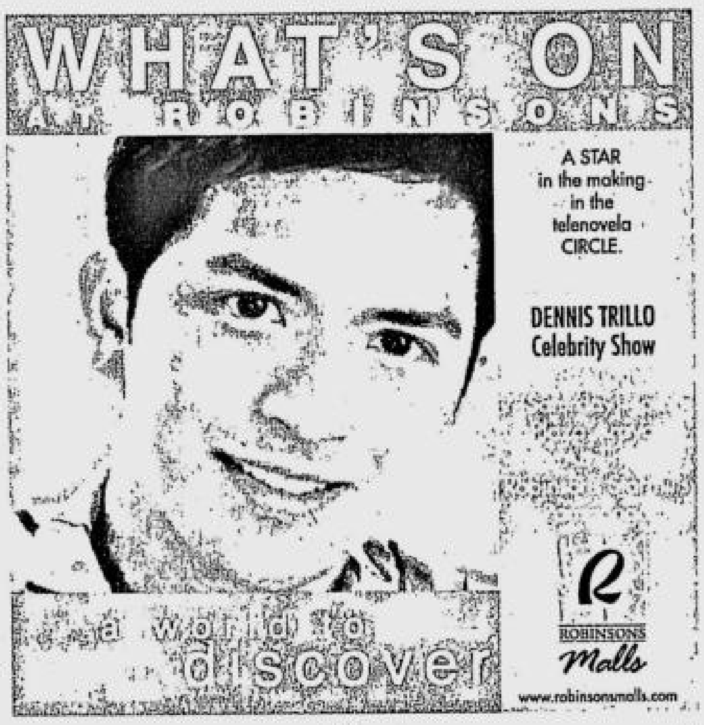
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- Avon Makeover and product sampling
- Slimmer's World Workout
- Penshoppe Fashion Booth
- Girlfriends Photo Booth
- Globe Handyphone SIM Switch, Autoload MAX
For FREE info, text EVENT GFCEBU to 2209

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM AUG 28 - SEPT 2

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	25	29
[illegible]	6:30 Star in A Million 7:30 TV Patrol 8:00 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 9:00 Home Along da Airport 10:00 Victim 11:00 Kontrobersyal 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 National Geographic 7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 Search for the 1st Tanduay Billiards Player	6:00 Asian 9 Ball 7:00 Viva Box Office *SPO1 Don Juan* 9:00 Sing Galing 10.00 *Circle of 10*	5:30 Pinoy Pop Superstar 6:30 Bitoy's Funniest Videos 7:30 Extra Challenge 8:15 Imbestigador 9:30 Idol Ko Si Kap 11:10 Kakabakaba Adventures	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7:00 7 Days 8:00 John Doe 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 PGMA	6:00 Jobs and Visa Central 7:00 Bitag 8:00 Ugnayang Pambansa 9:00 D.E.N.R. 10:00 El Shaddai	6:00 Sports TV 6:30 Game Plan 7:00 7th Heaven 7:45 Boston Public 8:45 America's Next Top Model 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:15 Reel Deel	6:00 Agila Reports 6:30 Screen Savers 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 Car Guys 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Ang Tamang Daan 10:00 Pasugo	6:00 RJ Music Videos 9:00 Music Videos 10:00 Music Videos 11:00 Music Videos
[illegible]	5:30 Rated K-Handa Ka Na Ba? 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Tanging Ina 9:30 Sunday Family Cinema 11:30 The Weekend News	6:00 15th Mitsubishi Lancer Int'l Juniors Tennis Championships 9:00 Go For Gold 11.00 Unlimited Diving	5:00 Best of PBA Games 7:00 Viva Cine Idols *Cara Y Cruz* 9:00 *Klasik Kayumanggi Part II* 10:30 ABC Onstage *Martin Nievera: Come Fly With Me*	6:00 Partners Mel & Jay 7:30 KI The P1 Million Videoke Challenge 9:00 Daddy Di Do Du 10.00 Sunday Night Box Office	6:00 Smack Down Wrestling 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 May Puso ang Batas 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 URRC TV	6:00 Home Shopping Network 7:00 Legacy of Hero 8:00 Pemsea 9:00 In This Corner 10:00 Global Family Series 10:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Nginig 7:00 The Amazing Race 8:00 Two & a Half Men 8:30 Just Shoot Me 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 F 10:15 Digital Tour 10:45 The Bachelor 11:30 Scariest Places on Earth	6:00 Captured 6:30 Fresh Gear 7:00 Convergence 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 New Yankee Workshop 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Ang Tamang Daan 10:00 Ang Iglesia ni Cristo	6:00 RJ Music Videos 9:00 Music Videos 10:00 Music Videos 11:00 Music Videos
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Victim Extreme 7:45 Marina 8:15 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:45 Hiram 9:15 It Might Be You 9:45 OK Fine! Whatever 11:00 Insider 11:30 The Correspondents	6:00 Concert at the Park 7:00 Search for the 1st Tanduay Billiards Player 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10.00 Dial M	5:30 Sentro 6:30 The Outsiders 7:00 Gagsters 7:30 Friends 8:00 The Apprentice 9:00 Crouching Tiger 9:30 Diretsahan 10:00 Big News 10:30 Fireworks 11:00 By Request	6:00 24 Oras 7:00 Extra Challenge 7:45 Mulawin 8:15 Te Amo 8:45 Marinara 9:15 30 Days 9:45 Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita 11:15 Saksi 11:45 I-Witness	6:00 Invader Zim 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Just for Laffs 8:00 Jag 9:00 The Agency 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Sex & the City 11:00 Atelier	6:00 Home Shopping Network 6:30 Pemsea 7:00 WWE Smackdown 8:00 D.E.N.R. 9:00 Japan Video Topic 10:00 Land Admin Project 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Linawin Natin	6:00 Batman Animated 6:30 Samurai Deeper Kyo 7:00 Wazzup, Wazzup 7:30 World's Craziest Videos 8:00 Bully 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time	6:00 Net'25 Report 6:30 World Report Filipino Edition 7:00 Openline 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 Convergence 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Ang Tamang Daan 10:00 Pasugo	6:00 RJ Music Videos 9:00 Music Videos 10:00 Music Videos 11:00 Music Videos
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[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Victim Extreme 7:45 Marina 8:15 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:45 Hiram 9:15 It Might Be You 9:45 Yes Yes Show 11:00 Insider 11:30 Special Assignment	6:00 Family Rosary Crusade 7:00 Search for the 1st Tanduay Billiards Player 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Paco Park Presents 11:00 Quantum	5:30 Sentro 6:30 The Outsiders 7:00 Greatest Fights of the Century 8:00 Fearless Fighting 9:00 Crouching Tiger 9:30 Diretsahan 10.00 Big News 10.30 TBA	6:00 24 Oras 7:00 Extra Challenge 7:45 Mulawin 8:15 Te Amo 8:45 Marinara 9:15 30 Days 9:45 Nuts Entertainment 11:15 Saksi 11:45 Jessica Soho Reports	6:00 Invader Zim 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Malcolm in the Middle 7:30 Still Standing 8:00 8 Simple Rules 8:30 Scrubs 9:00 Everwood 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Girls Behaving Badly 11:00 Road Trip	6:00 Home Shopping Network 6:30 Retro TV 7:00 Japan Video Topic 8:00 Global Family Series 9:00 Linawin Natin 10:00 BYK 101 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Breaking Barriers	6:00 Batman Animated 6:30 Samurai Deeper Kyo 7:00 Wazzup, Wazzup 7:30 Mr. Bean Live Series 8:00 CSI 9:00 Alias 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Life	6:00 Net 25 Report 6:30 World Report Filipino Edition 7:00 Openline 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 Fresh Gear 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Ang Tamang Daan 10:00 The Message	6:00 RJ Music Videos 9:00 Music Videos 10:00 Music Videos 11:00 Music Videos
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2bU!
Joe D' Mango's
Love notes
PROMO PERIOD AUGUST 24 - 28 2004

"Behind every great love is a great story."

THE NOTEBOOK

The Notebook Trivia
Ashley Judd was once attached to play the character of Allie.

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Check out the August 25 issue of 2bU! for free tickets.

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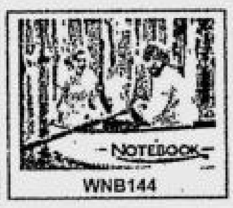

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*Selected branches only

Olympics' music set is a rich fusion of genres

By Rito P. Asilo

THE ATHENS Olympics' two-CD commemorative set, aptly titled "Unity" and "Harmony," is a rich fusion of musical genres. It boasts of collaborative efforts that combine mainstream pop (Destiny's Child, Jamelia, Sting, Alice Cooper, Earth Wind & Fire) and world music (Rachid Taha, Cheb Mami, Roots Manuva).

In "Unity," the pop crossover CD, Sting sings with Portuguese blues queen Mariza in "A Thousand Years," whose haunting melody is as powerful as her song's sentiments: "I may have lived a thousand years, a thousand times/ I may know things, I may be ignorant/ I may ride with kings or conquer lands, but I have one belief/ Eternity is still unsaid . . . until you love me." With seering vocals in English and Portuguese, this song alone is reason enough for you to get a copy of this collection.

Social relevance

Even the dance tracks are rife with social relevance: In Mr. G's "Issues," he whines about religion, hunger, poverty, violence, and more immediate concerns like kids' tuition fees, mortgage bills, "the taxation of everything"—all in under four minutes of terpsichorean music!

In "MKLVFKWR," Moby's electronica surprisingly harmonizes with Public Enemy's political digs: "Capitalists, communists, terrorists/ Swear to God I don't know the difference/ Making slaves out of immigrants/ Hear the bombs go, sent by the President!"

We were delighted to find the inclusion of Turkey's Tarkan, the all-female franco-african jazz group Les Nubians, and ambient music's Brian Eno hooking musical styles with pop music luminaries like Neneh Cherry and Wayne Wonder. Beres Hammond's' reggae fuses well with Les Nubians' jazzy stylings in "All The Way."

Infectious melody

Mixing foreign languages with English works particularly well in "Still Standing," featuring a falsetto-singing Brian Eno, Skin and Rachid Taha. Macy Gray's duet, "Oh Yeah," with Nigerian blufunk artist Keziah Jones sizzles with its evocative incendiary beats and infectious melody.

Our top pick: Lenny Kravitz' "We Want Peace" mixes the acclaimed American musician's provocative guitar playing with Iraqi singer Kadim Al Sahir's Middle-Eastern chanting.

Anti-war sentiments run high. In the first track, Avril Lavigne's rendition of the Bob Dylan classic, "Knocking On Heaven's Door," resonates with truth and immediacy: "Mama, take the badge off me/ I can't use it anymore/ Mama, put my guns in the ground/ I can't shoot them anymore!"

LAVIGNE. Anti-war sentiments.

"Harmony," the set's 17-track collection of new age and classical music, gathers a similarly impressive collection: Sarah Brightman's "Time to Say Goodbye"; Andrew Lloyd Weber's "Pie Jesu," featuring Charlotte Church on vocals; the New Age piece, "Adiemus," with Miriam Stockley's amazing voice.

Top pick

Top pick: Placido Domingo's medley of "Maria Elena/ Corazon Corazon/ Fina Estampa" (culled from his 1997 CD, "My Latin Album"). With Spanish guitars dominating the rich symphony reminiscent of Henry Mancini, Domingo's voice caresses from beginning to end.

Amazingly, Maria Callas' rendition of "Qui Radames Verra . . . O Patria Mia" (from Verdi's "Aida") hasn't aged at all—to think that this was recorded live at Milan's La Scala almost 50 years ago!

Seminar for overseas performers

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

LAST Aug. 24, the Department of Labor and Employment, through the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, launched the Comprehensive Orientation Program for Overseas Performing Artists (Coppa) at the Heritage Hotel.

The event was in cooperation with the Confederated Association of Licensed Entertainment Agencies (Calea), Overseas Placement Association of the Philippines (Opap), Philippine Association of Service Exporters Inc. (Pasei) and other NGOs.

Coppa, a two-day pre-departure orientation seminar for Overseas Performing Artists (OPAs), is a multi-sectoral brainchild of the government, the industry sector and concerned individuals, that aims to assist OPAs in coping with adjustment difficulties and the realities of a foreign work environment.

Six models

Its curriculum design is composed of six models: the Filipino OPA; industry stakeholders and institutional systems of support and services; self-development, sense for others and national identity; realities of being away from home and loved ones; occupational health, gender and sexuality concerns; and finance and economic management.

At the seminar, the Coppa concept and its significance to OPAs were explained. Owwa Administrator Virgilio R. Angelo, Ms Christie G. Buan, president of Calea, and Engr. Emmanuel L. Josue, executive director of Kaibigan ng OCWs, were the seminar's guest speakers.

E-mail mandynavasero@photopro.com.ph

COPPA LAUNCHING. (From left) Christie Buan, Tomochi Noguchi and Edwina Beech.

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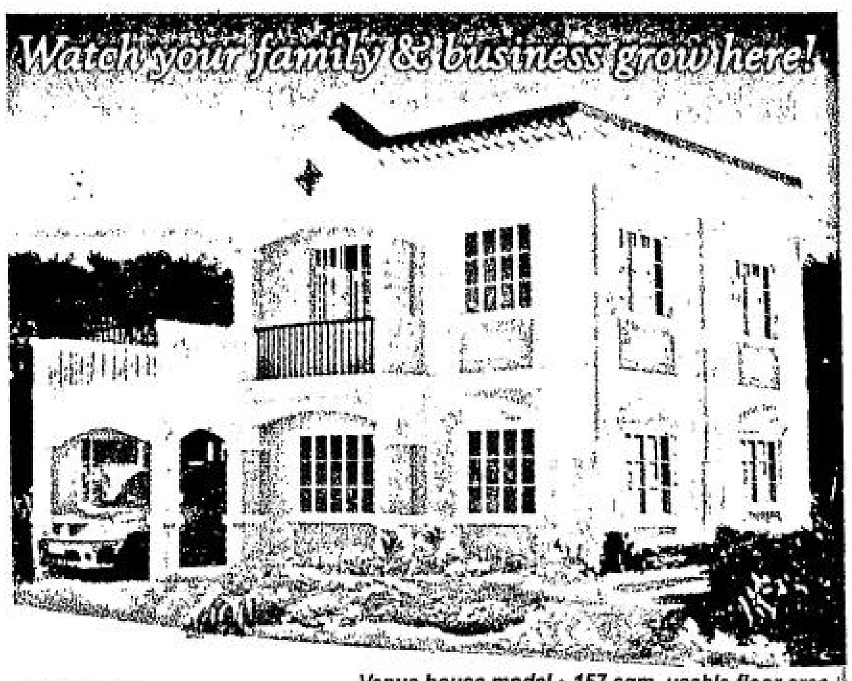

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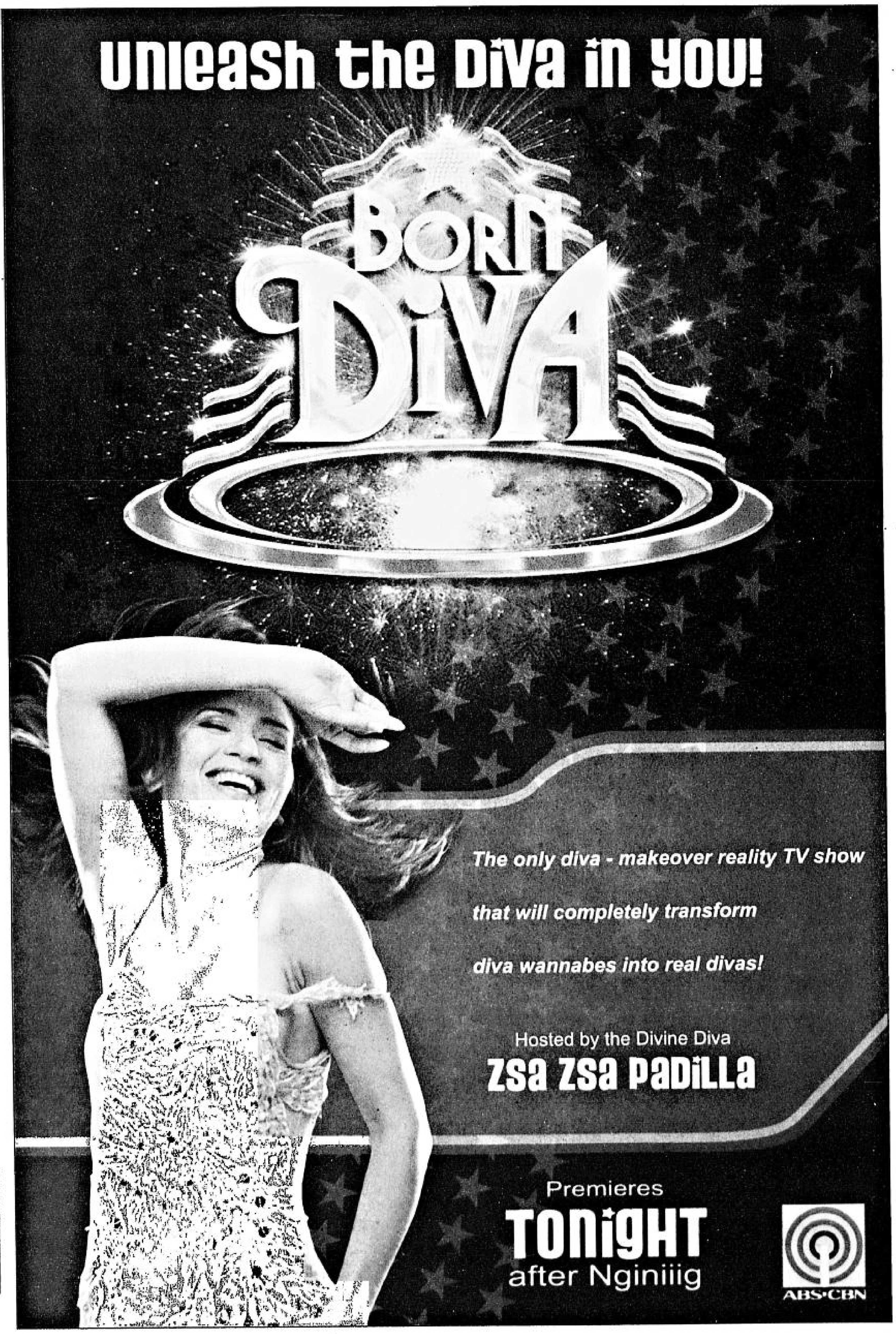
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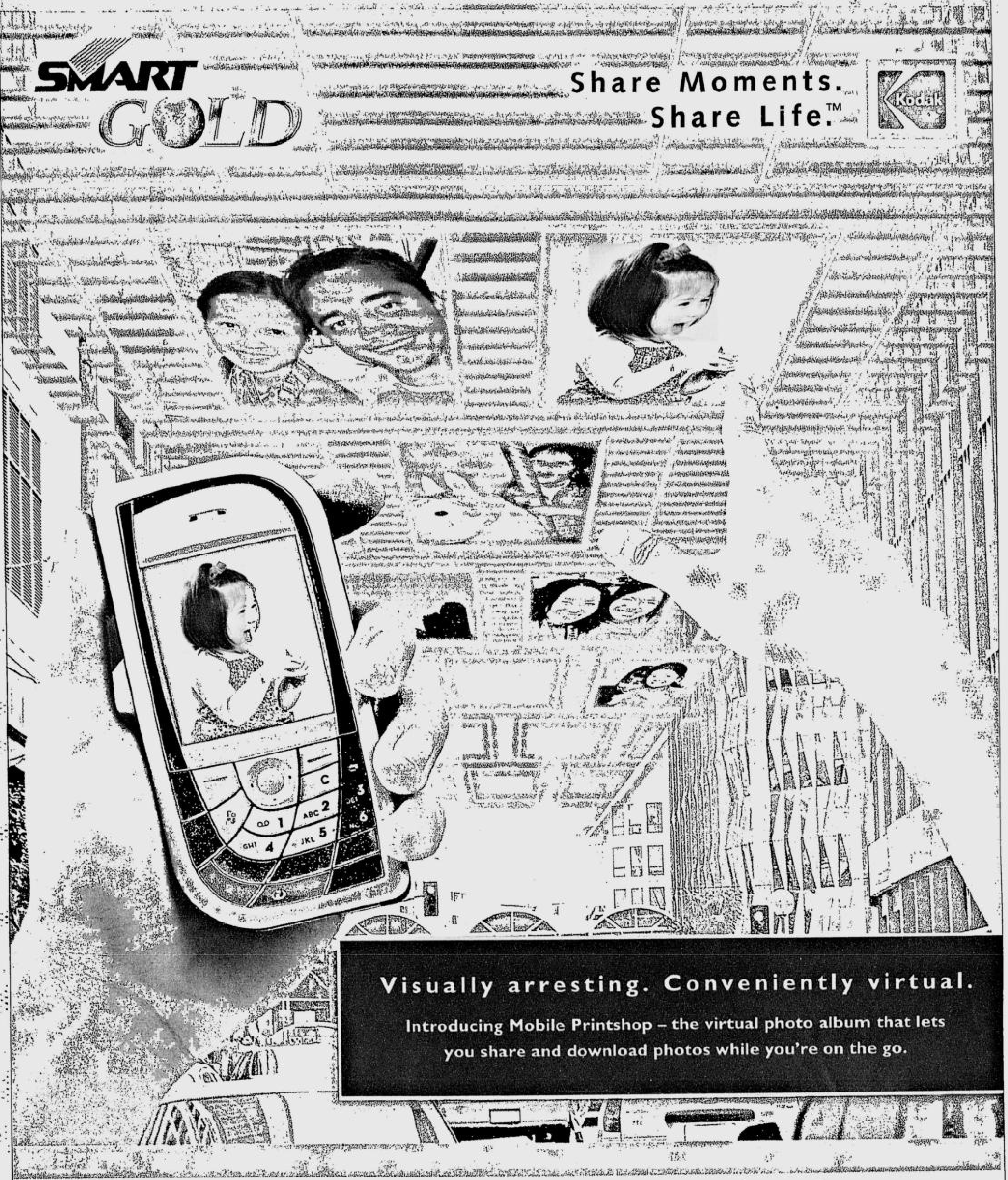
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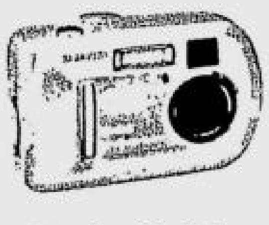

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SATURDAY *Special*

Tintin and Julius collaborate on book for children

By Nestor U. Torre

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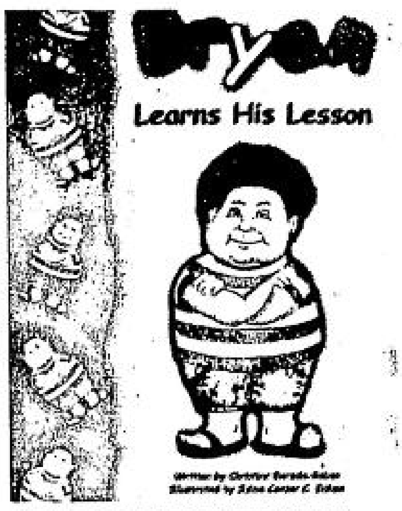
Bryan
Learns His Lesson

"BRYAN LEARNS HIS LESSON." Emotional and literary "investment."

AFTER Michelle Van Eimeren, it's Tintin Bersola-Babao's turn to write a children's book for her kids. In Tintin's case, however, the beautifully unique thing is, her and hubby Julius Babao's first child has yet to be born, so her first book, "Bryan Learns His Lesson," is like her emotional and literary "investment" in its values-laden future.

Tintin shares, "I wrote this story during that period of time when I tested negative twice for pregnancy. I thought it would take longer for Julius and me to have a baby. So, with my future baby in mind, I wrote this book. This is our little gift to our Baby Babao. —Then, happily, during the production of the book, I got pregnant!"

Illustrations

Julius, who did the illustrations for Tintin's story, adds: "Here it is! What Tintin and I used to just discuss and plan over a cup of coffee has finally become reality! Hope you enjoy reading our book."

Well, Julius and Tintin, we've read "Bryan Learns His Lesson" and we compliment you for coming up with a story that promotes the inculcation of positive values in Filipino children in a clear, simple but significant way.

The book introduces young readers to Bryan, a very spoiled little boy whose parents are wealthy. As a result, Bryan takes the many blessings in his life for granted.

Rude

Instead of being grateful to his generous and loving parents, he is rude to them. In addition, he's lazy, shouts at the maids, throws tantrums. —What a brat!

Bryan is so fixated on himself and what *he* wants that he doesn't listen to his parents when they advise him to eat healthy food, like fruits and vegetables.

Instead, he gorges on junk food and becomes fat and listless. He's so lazy that he even forgets to pray before he sleeps.

Is there any hope for a big brat like Bryan? There is. In one of his dreams, everything good in his life is taken away from him, and he experiences how it feels to be poor, hungry and unloved.

The experience shocks Bryan into the belated realization that he shouldn't take his bountiful life for granted. When he wakes up, he promises his parents that he will be a very good boy from now on!

Right attitudes

Values-laden stories like this are sure to be appreciated by parents of young children who want their kids to acquire the right attitudes, and to be helpful, productive and loving members of their families, and of society.

Parents will be pleased to know that "Bryan Learns His Lesson" is only the first in a series of other stories by Tintin and Julius that Goodwill Publishing is planning to put out in the coming months.

Tintin and Julius' next titles are "Bakit Siya Meron, Ako Wala?" and "Supot Queen." Call Goodwill at 895-8684.

BROSNAN AND MOORE. Gorgeous and talented actors.

NOW SHOWING

Lackluster romance

By Rito P. Asilo

"Laws of Attraction"
D: Peter Howitt
S: Pierce Brosnan, Julianne Moore

PIERCE Brosnan and Julianne Moore play hotshot divorce lawyers who represent opposing clients. He's suave and fancy-free, she's beautiful and uptight. Problem is, they're just too gorgeous not to fall for each other. When love threatens to get in the way of their respective careers, they're left without a choice: They get married! But, can they mix business with pleasure?

There's a lot of the romantic formula at play here, and the tricks occasionally work. But, the film lacks the necessary wit and tongue-in-cheek fun that you'd expect in an amusing tussle between two gorgeous, talented actors.

Howitt's ("Sliding Doors") film fails to capitalize on the abundant charms of its fascinating leads. The story makes much ado about two individuals who deny their mutual attraction even when there is no considerable impediment in its plot that hinders them from immediately admitting that they *do* make sparks fly. But, then again, we can't have the movie end in just 15 minutes, right?

LACKLUSTER/ F4

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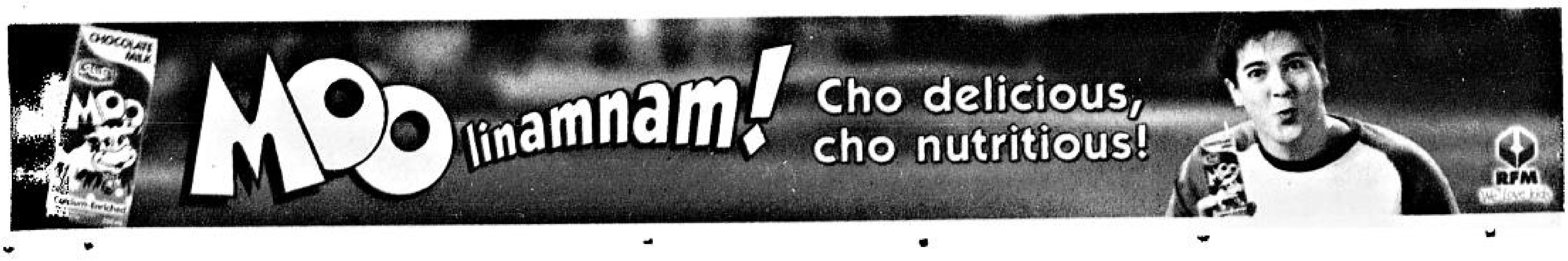
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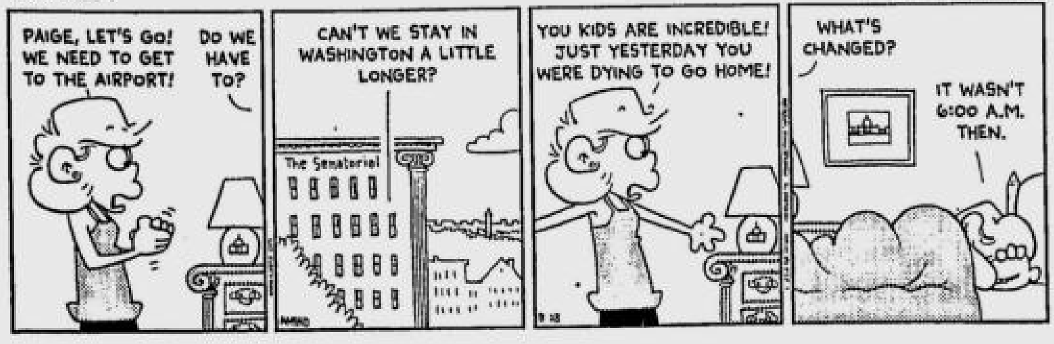
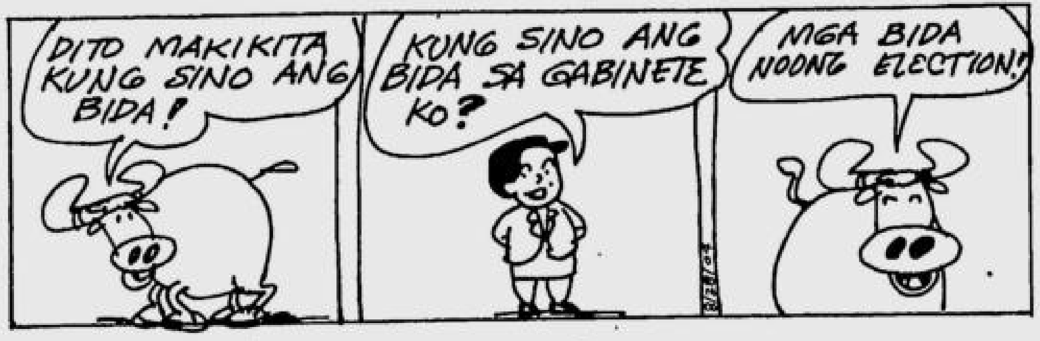
BY BILL AMEND


PAIGE, LET'S GO! WE NEED TO GET TO THE AIRPORT!
DO WE HAVE TO?
CAN'T WE STAY IN WASHINGTON A LITTLE LONGER?
The Senatorial
YOU KIDS ARE INCREDIBLE! JUST YESTERDAY YOU WERE DYING TO GO HOME!
WHAT'S CHANGED?
IT WASN'T 6:00 A.M. THEN.

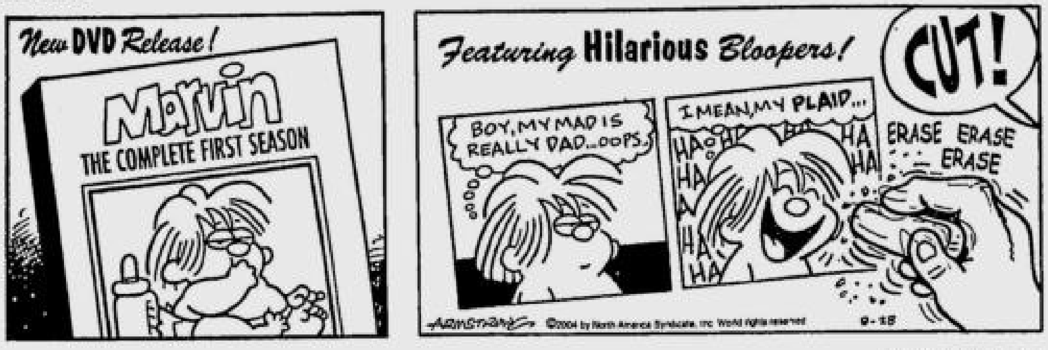
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DITO MAKIKITA KUNG SINO ANG BIDA!
KUNG SINO ANG BIDA SA GABINETE KO?
MGA BIDA NOONG ELECTION!

MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


New DVD Release!
Marvin
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BOY, MY MAD IS REALLY DAD...OOPS.
I MEAN, MY PLAID...
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
CUT!
ERASE ERASE ERASE
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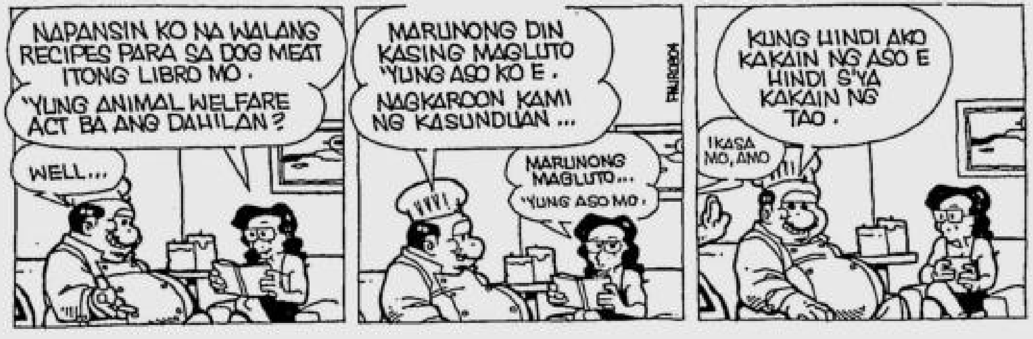
8-28

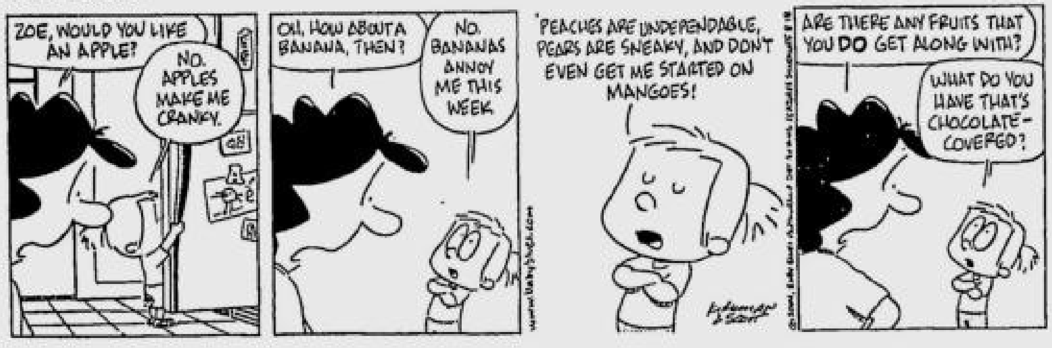
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAPANSIN KO NA WALANG RECIPES PARA SA DOG MEAT ITONG LIBRO MO.
'YUNG ANIMAL WELFARE ACT BA ANG DAHILAN?
WELL...
MARUNONG DIN KASING MAGLUTO 'YUNG ASO KO E.
NAGKAROON KAMI NG KASUNDUAN...
MARUNONG MAGLUTO... 'YUNG ASO MO.
KUNG HINDI AKO KAKAIN NG ASO E HINDI S'YA KAKAIN NG TAO.
IKASA MO, AMO

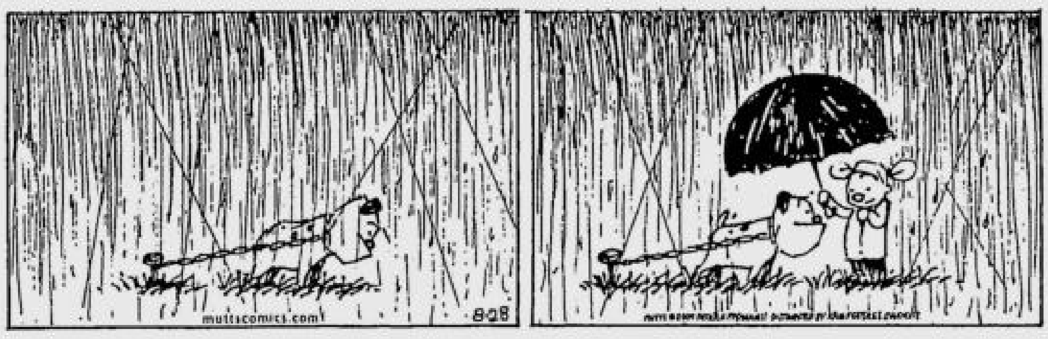
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ZOE, WOULD YOU LIKE AN APPLE?
NO. APPLES MAKE ME CRANKY.
OH, HOW ABOUT A BANANA, THEN?
NO. BANANAS ANNOY ME THIS WEEK.
PEACHES ARE UNDEPENDABLE, PEARS ARE SNEAKY, AND DON'T EVEN GET ME STARTED ON MANGOES!
ARE THERE ANY FRUITS THAT YOU DO GET ALONG WITH?
WHAT DO YOU HAVE THAT'S CHOCOLATE-COVERED?

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


muttscomics.com
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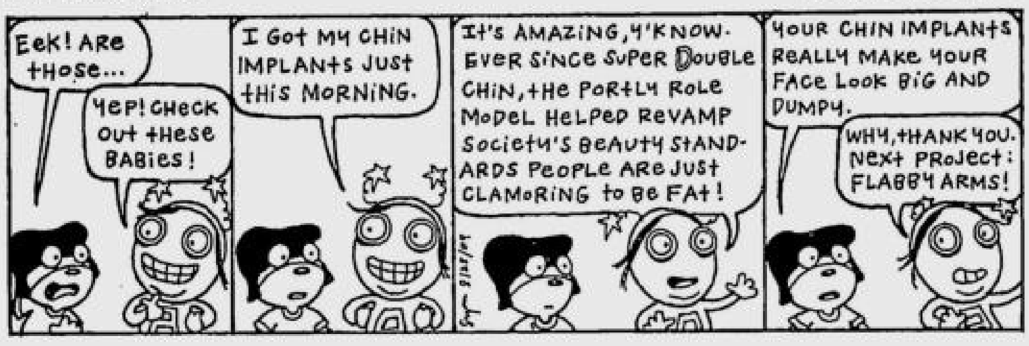
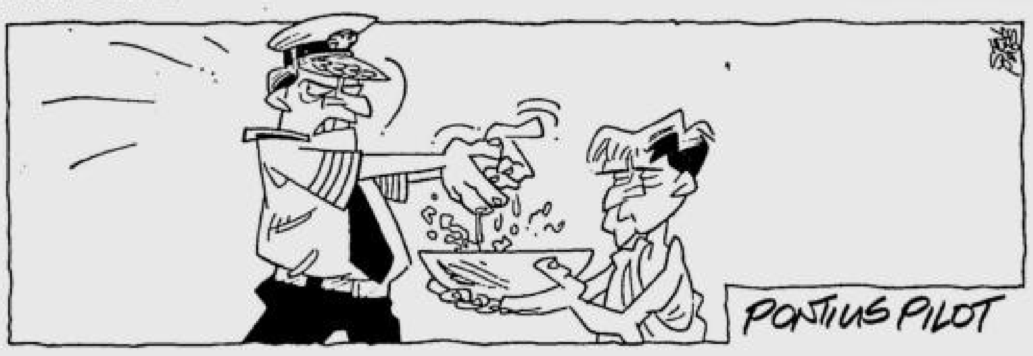
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Eek! Are those...
Yep! Check out these babies!
I got my chin implants just this morning.
It's amazing, y'know. Ever since Super Double Chin, the portly role model helped revamp society's beauty standards people are just clamoring to be fat!
Your chin implants really make your face look big and dumpy.
Why, thank you. Next project: flabby arms!

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


PONTIUS PILOT

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a natural way with words. You're extremely convincing and influential when you want to be. Many of you are writers, teachers and journalists. You believe the pen is mightier than the sword. Because of your articulate skills, you can do many things in life. The year ahead is social and fun-loving and favors romance.
Birthdate of: Jason Priestley, actor; LeAnn Rimes, singer; Shania Twain, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good day to enjoy friends, especially female friends connected with clubs, groups and organizations. Expect increasing stress in your job today.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Whatever you do today will call attention to you. You feel at odds romantically with someone. Children also test your patience. This is stress building up before tomorrow's Full Moon.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): If you can do anything different from your normal routine today, you'll be pleased. You want a change. You want adventure, and you want to learn something new.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You always react to the phases of the Moon. This can contribute to a moody quality you have. Tomorrow's full Moon creates tension and restlessness within you now.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Today's Moon opposes you, which means you have to be extra-patient and accommodating with others. You can't demand to get your own way. (But two weeks from now, you can!)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): If you make an effort to get better organized today, you'll feel a good sense of satisfaction. You don't want to have too many loose ends. (Less clutter promotes a more serene mind.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a good day to socialize, flirt, be creative and enjoy playful activities with children. Let your hair down. Be friendly to everyone you meet.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Conversations with family members (especially a parent) are significant today. Children could be topic of discussion. You might be planning a much-needed pleasure trip somewhere.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a busy day. It's good for shopping, short trips, socializing and discussions with siblings, plus negotiating deals. Don't stay at home. Get out there and hustle!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Commercial transactions are quite favorable today. This is a good day to talk about finances with your boss or VIPs. It's also a good day to shop.

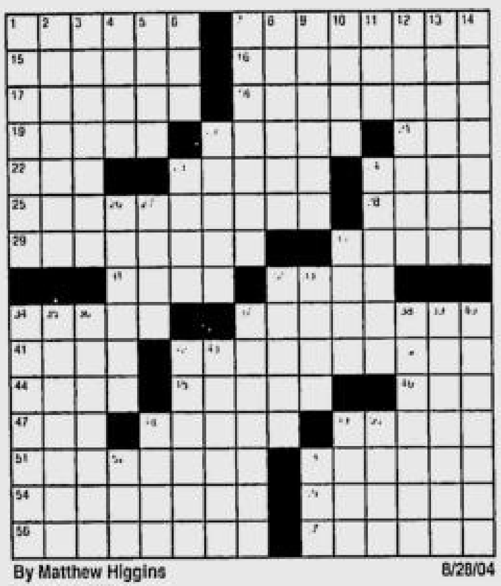
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): The Moon is in your sign today. This deepens your emotional response to things. Keep the faith that things will work out at your job. If you put out energy in one direction, you will receive a benefit.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You need time to be alone today. Solitude will help you sort out something that needs rethinking.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Ornamental tree with pods
7 Church beads
15 Garden pests
16 Theatrical interval
17 Exchanges
18 Some English Channel crossers
19 Buenos __
20 Actor Keach
21 Municipal vehicle
22 Hang loosely
23 Wading bird
24 Gilpin of "Frasier"
25 Tapes a show in advance
28 Small musical group
29 Terrier type
30 Legendary golfer Ben
31 Enjoy a repast
32 Sticky substances
34 Have on
37 Car shade?
41 Twelve-point measure
42 Having majestic dignity
44 Once more
45 Structural support
46 Shoshone
47 Genetic letters
48 Sally
49 Speak with lengthened vowels
51 Best beach, by one criterion
53 Evening do
54 Whiten a plant by excluding light
55 Seem
56 Coupon presenter
57 More than one Mr.

DOWN
1 Indian bean tree
2 Deductive
3 More distinct
4 Offense or defense
5 Middle of the month
6 Dunderhead
7 Make good as new
8 Ahead
9 Kindling wood
10 Military force
11 Aries image
12 Kind of lettuce
13 Tuscany in ancient times
14 Shrink time?
20 Shoulder warmer
23 Flip through
24 Drooping of the upper eyelid
26 Select by lot again
27 Amend the draft
30 Lifted, as an anchor
32 Full of daring
33 Burden
34 More scanty
35 Like a feather
36 Daughter of Tethys
37 Walk leisurely
38 Times and Herald
39 Last longer than
40 Staggerers
42 Small river
43 Wistful
48 Inclination to anger
49 Latest info
50 Splits roughly
52 Unknown John
53 Donaldson or Waterston



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH

8/28/04

Friday's Puzzle Solved

D	A	B	S	■	A	M	B	E	R	■	S	L	O	P
E	M	I	T	■	M	O	O	R	E	■	P	A	I	R
B	O	N	E	■	M	U	R	A	L	■	U	G	L	Y
B	U	G	I	N	O	N	E	S	E	A	R	■	■	■
I	R	O	N	Y	■	T	R	E	N	D	■	F	O	B
E	S	S	■	L	E	A	■	S	T	O	R	A	G	E
■	■	■	D	O	G	I	T	■	■	■	A	U	R	A
B	E	E	I	N	O	N	E	S	B	O	N	N	E	T
A	B	E	L	■	■	■	L	E	A	S	T	■	■	■
D	O	L	L	O	P	S	■	A	H	A	■	C	A	P
E	N	S	■	W	A	C	K	O	■	G	A	R	B	O
■	■	■	F	L	Y	O	N	T	H	E	W	A	L	L
A	L	T	O	■	O	R	A	T	E	■	A	W	O	L
W	E	A	R	■	F	E	V	E	R	■	S	L	O	E
L	I	M	E	■	F	R	E	R	E	■	H	Y	M	N

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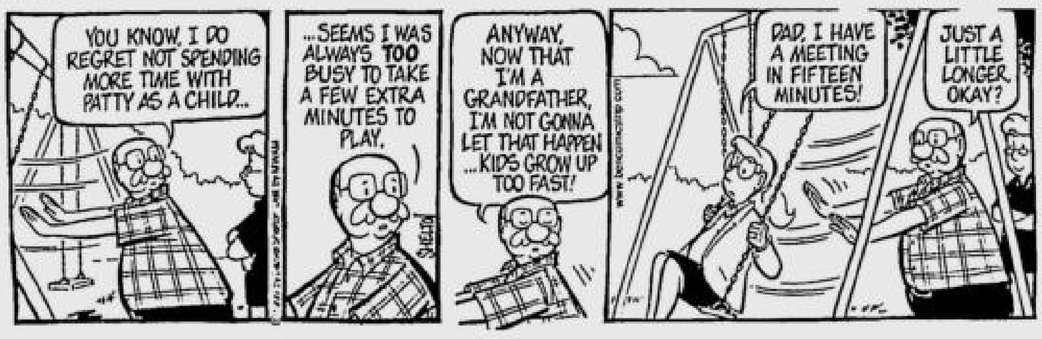
8/28/04

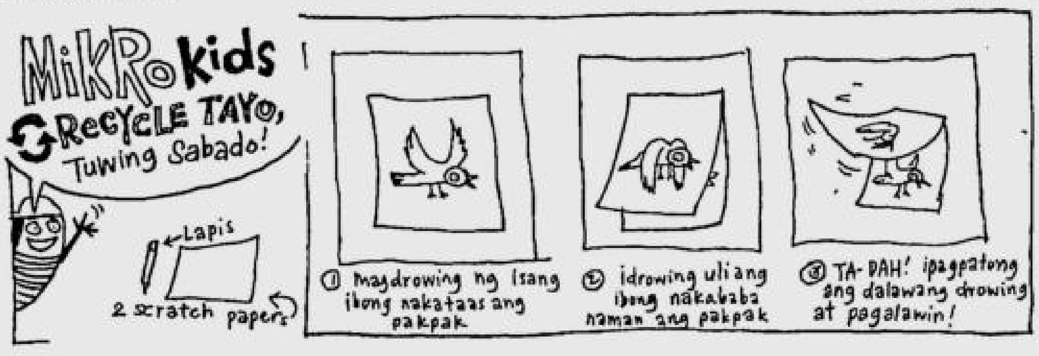
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


YOU KNOW, I DO REGRET NOT SPENDING MORE TIME WITH PATTY AS A CHILD...
...SEEMS I WAS ALWAYS TOO BUSY TO TAKE A FEW EXTRA MINUTES TO PLAY.
ANYWAY, NOW THAT I'M A GRANDFATHER, I'M NOT GONNA LET THAT HAPPEN ...KIDS GROW UP TOO FAST!
DAD, I HAVE A MEETING IN FIFTEEN MINUTES!
JUST A LITTLE LONGER, OKAY?

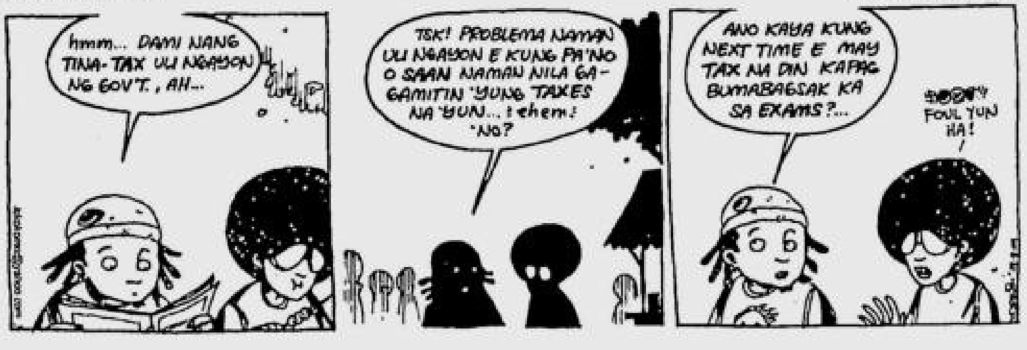
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRo Kids
RECYCLE TAYO, Tuwing Sabado!
Lapis
2 scratch papers
① magdrowing ng isang ibong nakataas ang pakpak
② idrowing uli ang ibong nakababa naman ang pakpak
③ TA-DAH! ipagpatong ang dalawang drowing at pagalawin!

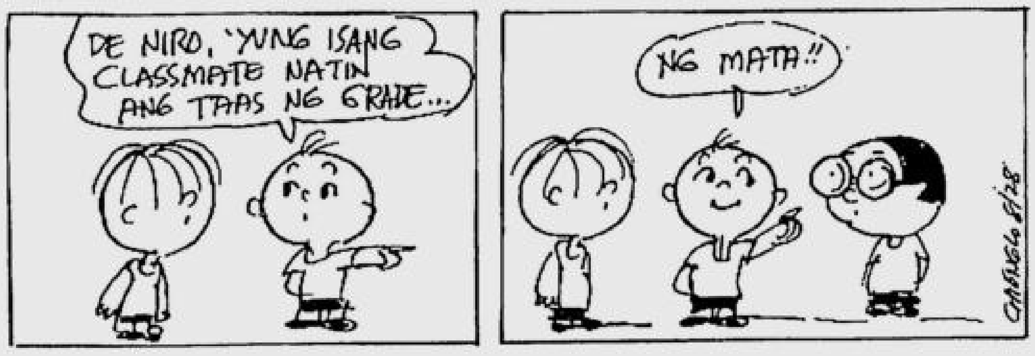
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


hmm... DAMI NANG TINA-TAX ULI NGAYON NG GOV'T., AH...
TSK! PROBLEMA NAMAN ULI NGAYON E KUNG PA'NO O SAAN NAMAN NILA GAGAMITIN 'YUNG TAXES NA 'YUN... ehem! 'NO?
ANO KAYA KUNG NEXT TIME E MAY TAX NA DIN KAPAG BUMABAGSAK KA SA EXAMS?...
FOUL YUN HA!

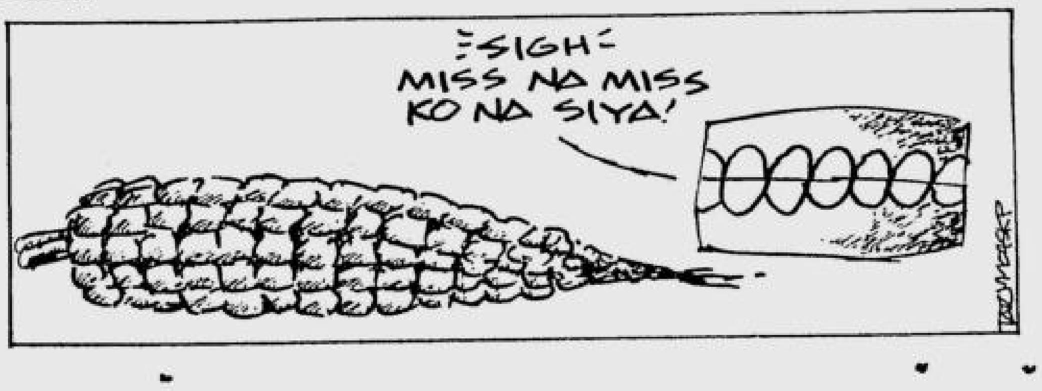
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, 'YUNG ISANG CLASSMATE NATIN ANG TAAS NG GRADE...
NG MATA!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


=SIGH=
MISS NA MISS KO NA SIYA!

Jericho and Kristine put their love team on hold

By Jocelyn Valle

AS they say, some good things never last. Jericho Rosales and Kristine Hermosa may have been the viewers' choice to end up together in the finale of the soap opera, "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas," but the young stars have sadly gone their separate ways.

Jericho is focused on his movie career. He is working on two projects: the mystical drama, "Santa-Santita," for esteemed director Laurice Guillen, and the suspense-drama, "Lihim," for tyro Cholo Laurel.

Artistic fulfillment

He shares that he finds greater artistic fulfillment in film work. "Honestly, *na-bopol ako nang kaunti* acting in soaps. There were times *na nagti-* trip *ako sa eksena* because of frustration. I want to be challenged as an actor."

Kristine, on the other hand, is biding her time before committing herself to another soap series. She's set to do a follow-up to her last movie, "All My Life," with current flame Diether Ocampo as her leading man.

Album

Both Jericho and Kristine are also into other projects like product endorsements, guest stints in various shows and, in Jericho's case, an album deal—yes, he's mulling over an offer from Star Records.

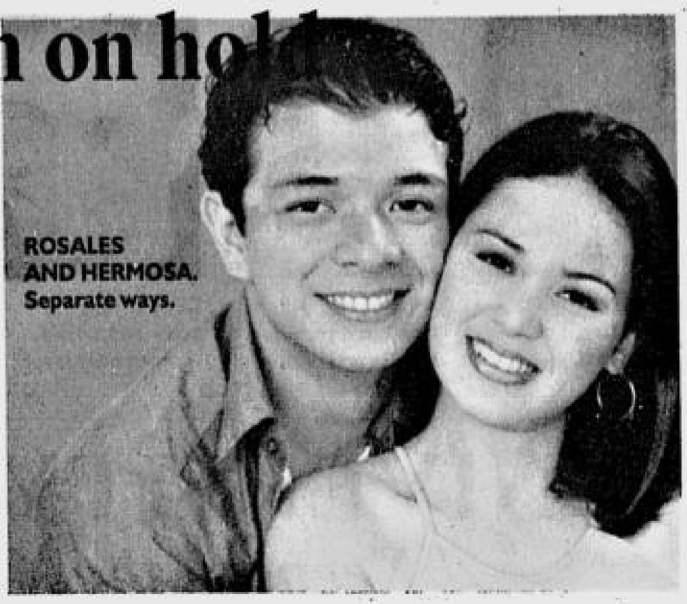
However, at a recent party hosted by their fans in a Quezon City restaurant, Jericho and Kristine clarified that their love team was just "on hold." "*Magpapahinga lang kami* (from working with each other)," said Jericho. "*Kung hindi kami magkaroon ng* project together, *sana nand'yan pa rin kayo.*"

At the same time, Jericho parried off conjectures that he was wooing Kristine again. In fact, he only had kind words for Kristine and Diether. "*Kapag ang tao masaya, bakit kailangan nating sirain ang pagtitinginan nila?* I'm happy for them. I wish them well," he said.

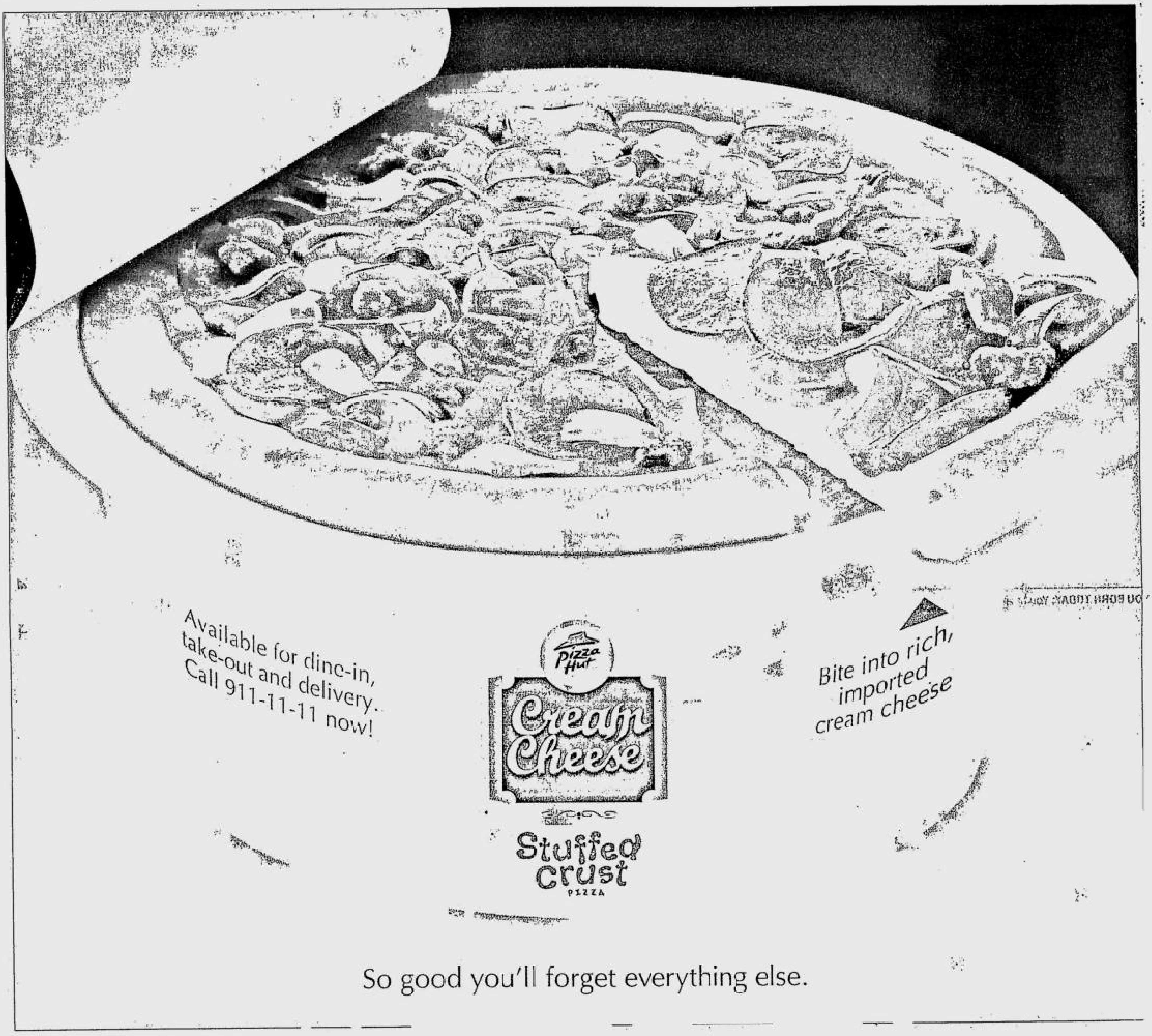
Breakup

When it comes to his own love life, Jericho is tightlipped. "'*Yun na lang ang natitira para sa akin,*" he sighs. According to reports, he's trying to get back with ex-girlfriend Cindy Kurleto, who's said to have caused the breakup of Jericho and Kristine.

The only other passion he has right now, aside from acting, is surfing. When his tight schedule permits, the matinee idol goes out of town to ride the waves of La Union and Siargao (considered one of the world's best). "Surfing will always be a big part of my life," he beams.



ROSALES AND HERMOSA. Separate ways.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REYES. Stage actor and award-winning composer.

Young talents make their mark

By Nestor U. Torre

GIFTED singer-songwriter Arnold Reyes topbills "Florante at Laura" with Julia Clarete on Aug. 28 at the Casa del Niño Gym in San Pedro, Laguna, and on Sept 5 at Tanauan Gym II in Tanauan City, Batangas.

Arnold is the composer of the award-winning song, "Paano Na," and of other pieces like "Perry's Will," "You" and "Kung Ako Ba Siya" for Regine and Cacai Velasquez, and Piolo Pascual. Call 743-4883.

Paolo Valenciano

Gary V's son, Paolo Valenciano, got his start in performance in musicals like "Honk" and "The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe." TV and film acting offers followed, but Paolo had to turn them down to focus on his studies.

This year, however, he's revving up his career with guest appearances in sitcoms, and variety shows like "Asap Mania." But his long-term goal is still to become an outstanding film director.

Meanwhile, Paolo is also honing his composing skills, with the song "Admirer" as his *buena mano* bid. Star Records has offered him a recording contract. There's no stopping Gary's scion!

Bianca Araneta

The "Digital LG Challenge" quiz show for high school students has a new female quizmaster in model and celebrity veejay Bianca Araneta.

A combination of beauty and brains, Bianca is also into music, writing, photography, digital arts, jet skiing, wake boarding, horseback riding, soccer and volleyball. —An all-around achiever who should serve as a good role model for the young people who watch the GMA-7 program (Sundays, 9 a.m.)!

Bianca's co-quizmaster is Paolo Bediones. Pat Perez directs the popular quiz show.

Mark Ruffalo

Known for playing quirky detective characters (the fashion-forward FBI agent in "Collateral," etc.), actor-on-the-rise Mark Ruffalo plays his first lead role in the new romantic comedy, "13 Going on 30."

In the film, adolescent Jenna Rinks wishes desperately to become and adult—and suddenly gets her wish! As an adult, she is played by Jennifer Garner, and Ruffalo is cast as her love interest.

In his character, Matt, Ruffalo sees an incomplete human being who not only helps Jenna understand who she is, but discovers something about himself as well.

Ruffalo enjoyed playing Matt. He shares, "I usually play more intense characters, but I had a lot of fun being Matt—he's a pretty straightforward guy, but he has this wonderfully goofy quality as well.

Jennifer Garner seconds the motion: "Mark is delicious," she beams. "I don't know anyone who saw 'You Can Count on Me' who didn't fall head over heels for him!"

LATHAN AND BOVA. Topbill sci-fi flick, "Alien vs. Predator."

Lackluster . . .

From page F1

"Thunderbirds"

D: Jonathan Frakes
S: Bill Paxton, Ben Kingsley

Jonathan Frakes serves up a colorful but uninspired big-screen adaptation of the '60s British TV puppet show about the Tracy family who make up the heroic Thunderbirds, headed by billionaire dad, Jeff (Paxton).

When their space station is deliberately damaged by the villainous Aristotle Spode/ The Hood (Kingsley), Jeff and his older kids fly off to space to save it, leaving his eager-beaver youngest son and his friends to foil The Hood's plan to rob the Bank of London, the loot from which would allow him to jump-start his plan for world domination.

Children will probably enjoy this sci-fi tale. But, if you're looking for more than just fun and kid-stuff adventure, you won't find it here. —Unless your idea of fun is ogling at fresh-faced male protagonists!

"Alien Vs. Predator"

D: Paul W.S. Anderson
S: Raoul Bova, Sanaa Lathan

An underground pyramid 2,000 feet below Antarctica's wasteland is discovered during an archaeological expedition. Experts are called in to help uncover what could be the discovery that would make billionaire industrialist Charles Weyland (Henriksen), a respected explorer, more powerful than he already is.

But—surprise!—the pyramid is really home to an alien hive! Adding to the doom-and-gloom scenario is a pack of "teenage space predators" on a "ritual to adulthood," who are out to hunt down the alien flock. And the poor humans find themselves caught in the midst of this battle for supremacy!

It's amazing that it took the film's creators 14 years to conceptualize (and two years to shoot) this silly yarn. The pacing plods through at snail's pace—until it's time for the obligatory slam-bang confrontation of the two evil creatures.

Too bad, this movie had to be Italian actor Raoul Bova's ("Under The Tuscan Sun") Hollywood debut. But, at least, "AVP" opened at the top of the box office. Hollywood's penchant for merging two famous franchises ("Freddie vs. Jason," remember?) has been a bust because these "collaborations" are not as scary as the originals.

We have a suggestion, though: "Imelda Vs. Evita." Now, *that* should be unnerving!

UNIVERSITY OF SAN AGUSTIN:

Keeping the Augustinian Legacy Alive

NAMED after St. Augustine of Hippo, the University of San Agustin (USA) builds on the priceless heritage of this preeminent father and doctor of the Church.

St. Augustine, bishop and confessor, was born on November 13, 354, in the town of Thagaste, in Numidia Proconsularis (now the Arab village of Souk-Ahras, near the eastern border of Algeria). A sinner early in his life, Augustine later embraced the Catholic faith and became one of its greatest defenders. He was a prolific writer that in the course of time it came to be said: "He lies who says that he has read all of his works." Augustine is known by many titles including "The Library of the Church" and "The Wisest Among the Holiest, the Holiest Among the Wisest." He died on August 28, 430. Throughout his life, St. Augustine had a great reputation and exerted untold influence. Since his death his reputation and influence have spread from the borders of the Mediterranean to every part of the world including the Philippines, in particular, Iloilo City.

Other esteemed Augustinians who also inspired the establishment of the 100-year-old University of San Agustin are Gregor Johann Mendel, O.S.A., the first geneticist; Luis de Leon, O.S.A., the father of Spanish lyric poetry; Manuel Blanco, O.S.A., the author of the groundbreaking work *Flora de Filipinas*; and Martin de Rada, O.S.A., "Apostle of Panay" and "Defender of the Indios," among others.

Present-day Augustinians trace their apostolate in the Philippines to five pioneer Augustinian friars—Martin de Rada, Diego de Herrera, Agustin de Aguirre, Pedro de Gamboa and Andres de Urdaneta, a sailor-turned-friar, "the pilot upon which everything in the early history of the Philippines turned." One of the purposes of their expedition was "to bring the natives of those regions to a knowledge of the Catholic Faith." Fr. Rada, in particular, preached in the riverbanks of Pan-ay and Halauod (now Dumangas) in 1566-1567. By 1594, the Augustinian religious numbered 107 in seven provinces, including Panay. In "the official list of parishes and missions established in 1898, the Augustinians administered 68 parishes in the diocese of Jaro…" The Augustinians are the builders of many of the Catholic churches in the Philippines, notably the San Agustin Church in Intramuros, the Paoay Church in Ilocos Norte, the Basilica del Sto. Niño in Cebu, and the Miag-ao Church in Iloilo. They were architects and engineers, as well as grammarians, writers, historians, and scientists.

After setting up the towns and building churches across the archipelago, the Augustinians started to act on the educational and cultural dimensions of their apostolate. As early as the 1880s, the Augustinians planned the establishment of a school in Iloilo. On July 15, 1904, they opened the Colegio de San Agustin de Iloilo.

Universidad de San Agustin

Historical Milestones

15 July 1904. The *Colegio de San Agustin de Iloilo* opened with 40 students. The first Augustinian community was composed of Fr. Bernabe Jimenez, O.S.A., the first rector; Fr. Tiburcio Recio, O.S.A.; Fr. Mateo Fuentes, O.S.A.; Fr. Sotero Redondo, O.S.A.; and Fr. Ramon Lucio, O.S.A.

1 March 1953. Under the leadership of Fr. Dulse Garcia, O.S.A., the *Colegio de San Agustin de Iloilo* was granted University Status by the Philippine Government. The University of San Agustin earned the singular distinction as the first university in Western Visayas.

11 June 1979. The Liberal Arts Program of the University was accredited by the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU), the first to be cited in Western Visayas. Subsequently, the PAASCU accredited the University's other academic programs, to wit: Law (1979), Teachers College (1980), Commerce (1983), High School (1984), Elementary (1987), Pharmacy and Medical Technology (1994), and Engineering and Architecture (2001). The Graduate School and the College of Nursing were also given initial accreditation in 2000 and 2001, respectively.

25 December 1983. With the canonical erection of the Filipino Augustinian province, the administration of the University of San Agustin was transferred from the Spain-based Augustinian Province of the Holy Name of Jesus to the newly-created Augustinian Province of Santo Niño de Cebu-Philippines, with Rev. Fr. Eusebio B. Berdon, O.S.A. as the first Prior Provincial.

27 October 2003. The University of San Agustin was granted Autonomous Status by the Commission on Higher Education.

12-17 July 2004. The University of San Agustin celebrated the centennial of its foundation, with the theme, "Living the Legacy, Leading the Way."

PATRON SAINT'S DAY 2004

THEME: "St. Augustine as Contemporary Christian"

August 27,2004 (FRIDAY)

6:30 AM	Floral Offering	MainGate (In front of St. Augustine Statue)
7:00 AM	Procession	Main Campus
8:00 AM	Mass	Gym
9:30 AM	St. Augustine Scholarship Contest	Auditorium
1:00 PM	Parade	Main Campus
1:30 PM	Opening of Intramurals	Gym
2:00 PM	Literary-Musical Contest	Auditorium
5:30 PM	Dinner for University Personnel	Quadrangle

August 28,2004 (SATURDAY)

7:00 AM	Mass	
4:30 PM	Conferment of *Honoris Causa* Degree on Mr. Rogelio Florete	
	Conferment Ceremony	Chapel
	Reception	Gym

ON – GOING ACTIVITY

August 23-31 Hinabol Nga Pagtu-o — Macapagal Hall
An Ethno- iconographic Representation of Saint Augustine as a Visayan
by: Rev. Fr. Dominador Besares, OSA, visual artist
John Iremil Teodoro, poet

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS

Fr. Manuel M. Vergara, O.S.A.
University President

Fr. Raul M. Marchan, O.S.A.
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Fr. Generous P. Gonesto, O.S.A.
Vice President for Administration/Finance

Fr. Jonas M. Mejares, O.S.A.
Campus Minister/ Dean, Theology/ Conservatory of Music

Fr. Harold Ll. Rentoria, O.S.A.
Principal, Basic Education Department

USA CONFERS HONORARY DEGREE ON FLORETE

MEDIA magnate Rogelio Florete Sr., one the Outstanding Augustinians of the Century, will be conferred today an honorary doctorate degree in business management.

Florete is the chairman and chief executive officer of Bombo Radyo Holdings, Inc., Newsounds Broadcasting Network, Consolidated Broadcasting System, People's Broadcasting Service, Queen City Development Bank, R. Florete Pawnshop and Jewelry, Inc., Queencard Corporation, Diamel Corporation, Florete Trading, Inc., Ruby Land Corporation, Marsals Corporation, Florete Equity Ventures, Inc., Florete Land, Inc., Marro Holdings Corporation, and CBS Development Corporation.

A self-made man, Florete supported his way through college by working full-time during daytime while pursuing his studies at night at the University of San Agustin. He obtained his B.S. Commerce major in Business Administration in 1960. Florete is also a member of the USA High School Class 1956.

OUTSTANDING AUGUSTINIANS OF THE CENTURY

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ENCANTO, Mervyn G.
+**YAP,** Rodolfo Sr. M.
YAPJOCO, Wilfredo S.

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CANTERA, Jose C.
CHAN, Jose D.
FLORETE, Rogelio M.
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TANLU, Leonardo O.
WHITMAN, Monette T.

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HERICO, Rose G.
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JIZ, Evelyn C.
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TERUEL, Zinnia P.

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DESLATE, Noni E.
FERNANDEZ, Rodolfo I.
SALAS, Salvador T.

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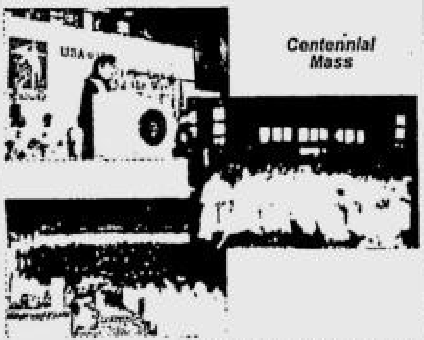

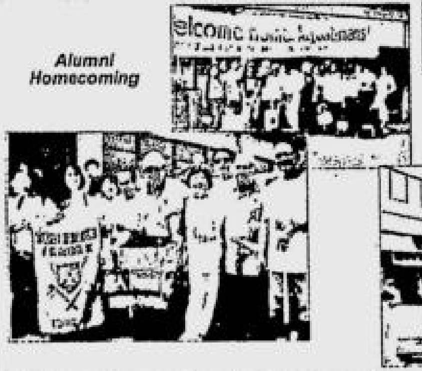

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KC Concepcion is back in bohemia page H1

Mad about Mags page G2

Grab your Super Market finds page H1

Produced by TIM YAP
Photography: STEVE TIRONA
Photo assistant: MARCUS MAGUIGAD
Cover star: KAT AGARRADO, wearing SHU UEMURA Lolishine Rouge in 136

Tim Yap

PUCKER up and pose.

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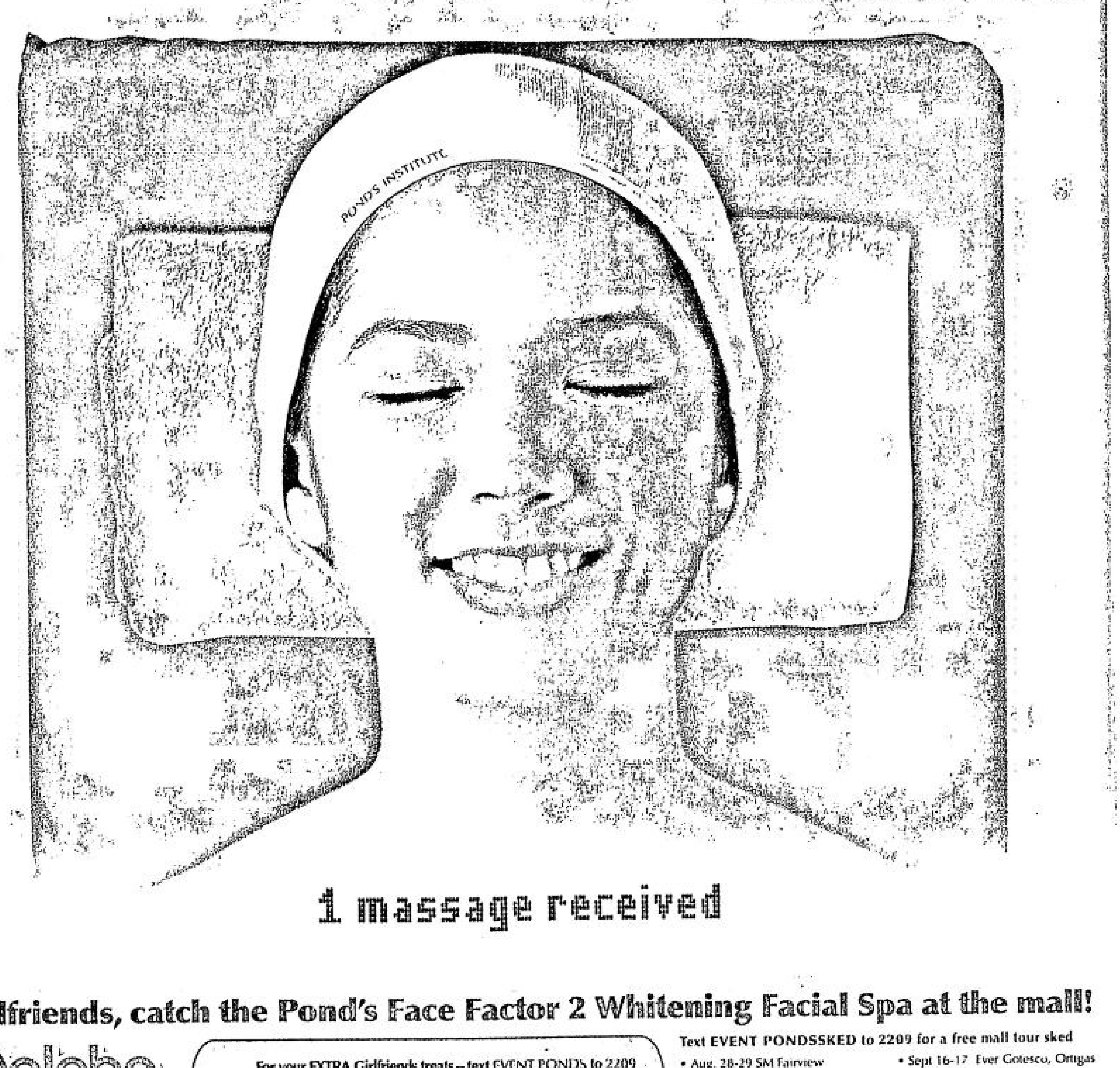
They're ready for their close-ups.



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APPETITE FOR FASHION. (From left) Rorie Carlos, Pauline Suaco-Juan, Agoo Bengzon and Claire Betita-Samson.

Preview

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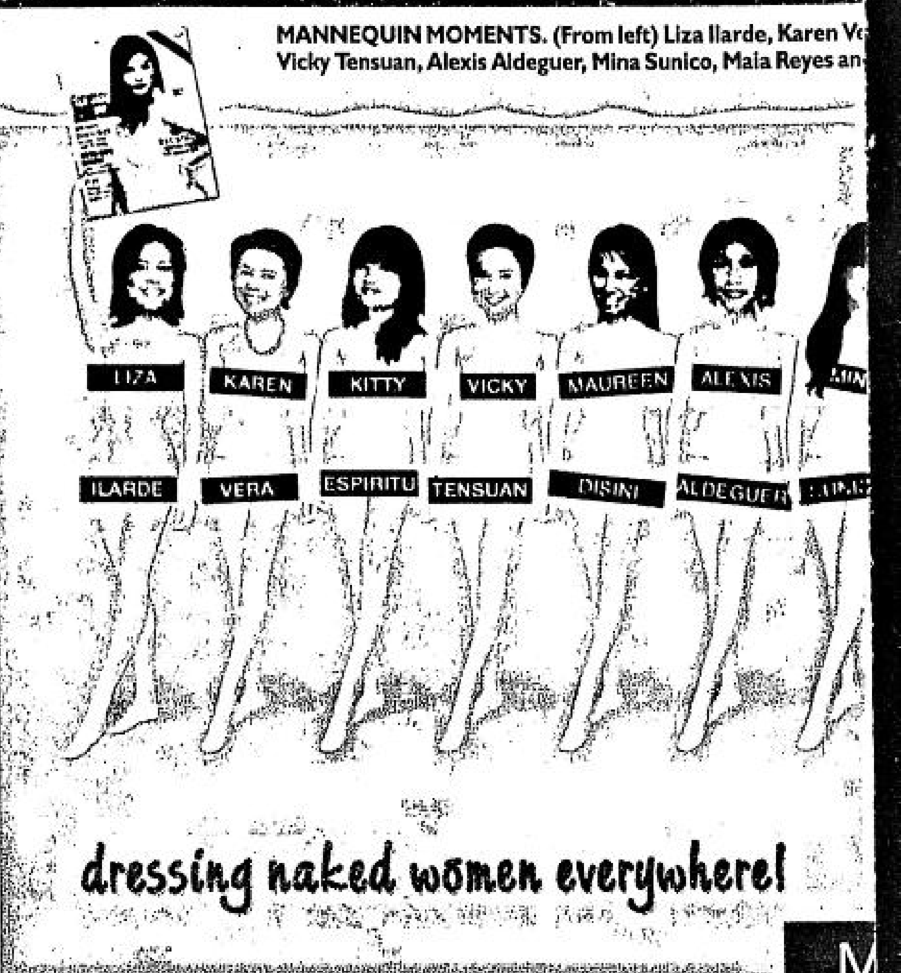
MANNEQUIN MOMENTS. (From left) Liza Ilarde, Karen V
Vicky Tensuan, Alexis Aldeguer, Mina Sunico, Maia Reyes an



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TEEN BRIGADE. (From left) [illegible] Barretto and Mariel Cruz

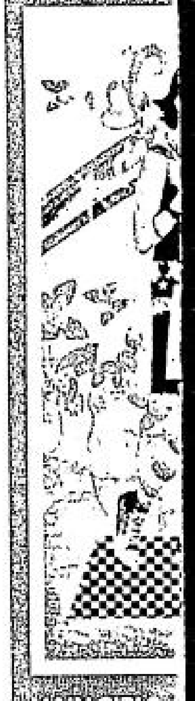
Seventeen

Your magazine statement in one word:
Real.
What sets you apart from the competition:
Seventeen is packed with fun articles that empower, inspire and nurture every teen's inner and outer girl. And we speak to the heart and soul of every Pinay teen.
Favorite cover girl:
Three-time cover girl KC Concepcion will always be a favorite. She embodies everything a Seventeen girl should be: smart, fun, confident, sassy and real.
What your readers don't know about you :
We get starstruck all the time!
Mission/vision:
Seventeen is every college girl's handbook to life. We prepare the Pinay teen for the real world and encourage her to chase after her dreams, overcome her fears and enjoy life!
Who reads you:
College girls who want to make the most of their teen years. Young women who are building their identity and looking for their place in this world. Plus, anyone who's seventeen at heart! (Not to mention the guys who have secret crushes on our cover girls!)

FEARLESS FEMMES WITH A HORDE OF HUNKS. (Clockwise from top) [illegible] Nabung, Donna Cline-Paz, Myrza Sison, Corey Mills, [illegible] Aquino, Jamie Evangelista, Morten Bremerhoej, [illegible] Tan and Irene Barcelo

Cosmopolitan

Magazine statement in one word: Cosmopolitan!
What sets you apart from the competition: Cosmo has a winning formula that has made it the No.1 selling young women's magazine on the planet. Cosmo touches the Cosmo Girl's heart, stimulates her mind and moves her to action. Cosmo is more than a magazine—it's a lifestyle!
Favorite cover girls: Angelina Jolie and Mandy Moore. Locally, celebrities whose sexy inner Cosmo Girl we have unleashed upon an extremely appreciative world—Miriam Quiambao (February 2002), Heart Evangelista in the current issue (August 2004), and our gorgeous October 2004 cover girl (surprise!). Cover girls who have been the easiest to work with because they're such great models: Phoemela Barranda, Angel Aquino, Alessandra and Assunta de Rossi, Mylene Dizon.
What your readers don't know about you: That the Cosmo staff is made of authentic Cosmo Girls struggling with the same life issues and dilemmas that the readers do! That's why all the advice in Cosmo really works—we think of the Cosmo Girl in everything that we do!
Mission/vision: Live big, be the best you can be in every area of your life.
Who reads you: 60-70,000 Fun, fearless Filipinas.



MAIN GIRLS. Bautista

Lifestyle Asia

Your magazine statement in one word:
Elegance.
What sets you apart from the competition:
We're not snooty.
Favorite cover girl:
Aimee Marcos is an all-time best-seller.
Least-selling covers:
Older women ... unless they're former actresses or ex-beauty queens.
What your readers don't know about you:
That the staff is a bunch of kids—22 to 25 years old.
Mission/vision:
To help people live the good life.
Who reads you:
Men and women of varying ages who have an eye for style and the arts, those who love to travel, dine and live well.

Manual

Your magazine statement in one word:
Evolution (or evolving).
What sets you apart from the competition:
Substance. Where does it say that fashion and frivolity have to go hand in hand all the time?
Favorite cover subject:
Chief Justice Hilario Davide. He rocks!
Least-selling covers:
We can tell you, but we'll have to kill you after.
What readers don't know about you:
We hate the term "metrosexual."
Mission/vision:
Classic style for real men.
Who reads you:
Successful single men (those who really are, and those who are pretending).

LABOR FORCE. (Clockwise from bottom left) [illegible] and Kym de Guzman

OPEN SOCIETY. (From left) [illegible]

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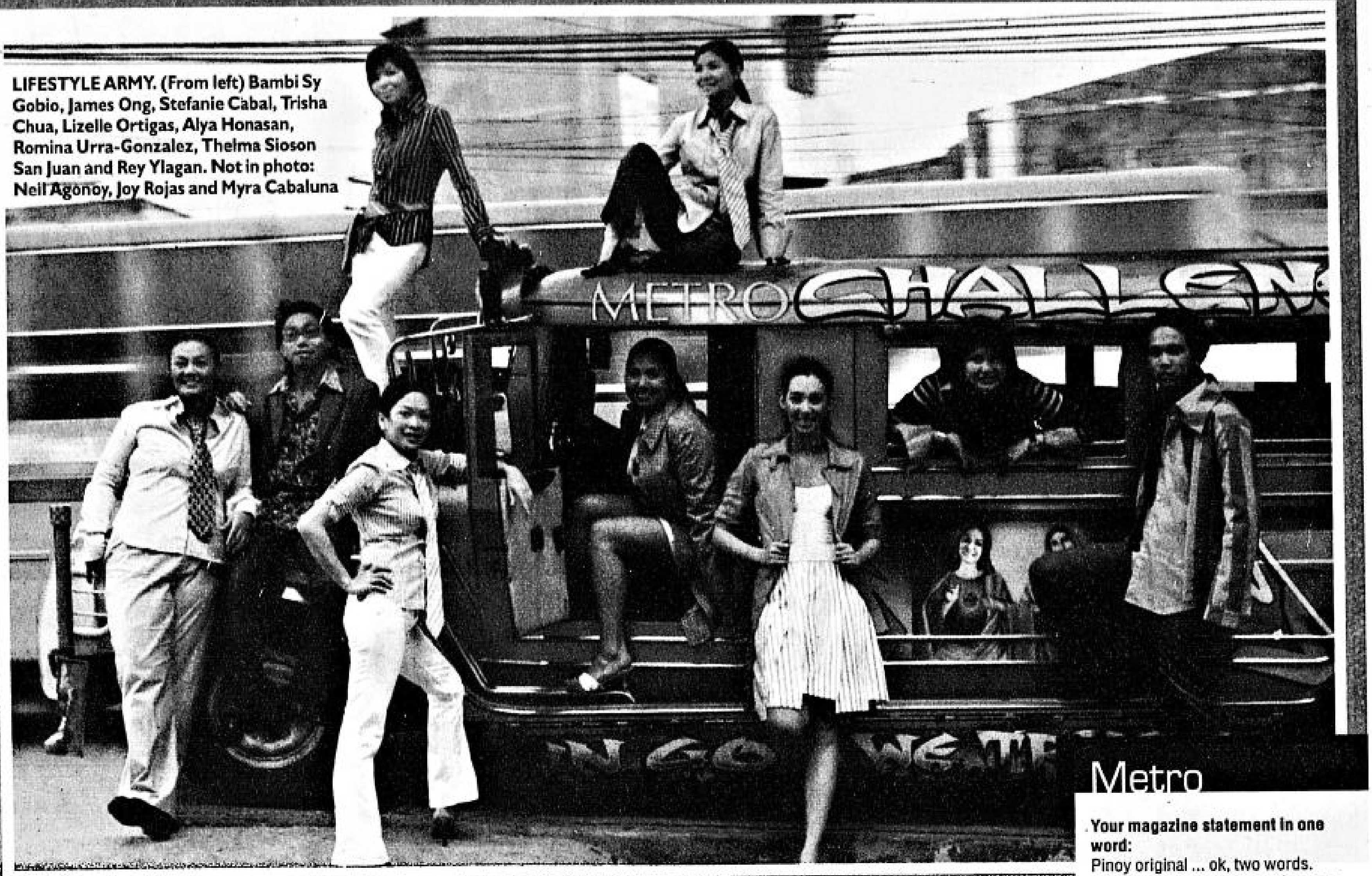
ra, Kitty Espiritu, Maureen Disini,
d Lorraine Belmonte

MAIA
LORRAINE
REYES
BELMONTE

lega

magazine statement in one word:
ident.
t sets you apart from the competition:
a is heartily dedicated to reporting the fash- nd beauty trends of the world and delivering to the Filipino reader in ways that are rele- to her and her lifestyle.
rite cover girls:
ove Sharon Cuneta, KC Concepcion and Lucy es-Gomez because they are Mega's consis- best-sellers. And because they're nice.
st-selling covers:
plead the Fifth!
t your readers don't know about you:
all of us on the Mega staff TRULY care about vork we put in the magazine. We take pains ake sure that each photograph is just right, each word will resonate with our reader and easant to read. We extend our artistic capa- es to the utmost to bring you a great, and t-looking, issue each month.
sion/vision:
envision that Mega (and other MMPI titles) be the standard for media excellence in the ppines. To fulfill that, see above.
reads you:
ly; savvy, self-assured people who appreci- eading the country's best fashion magazine.



LIFESTYLE ARMY. (From left) Bambi Sy Gobio, James Ong, Stefanie Cabal, Trisha Chua, Lizelle Ortigas, Alya Honasan, Romina Urra-Gonzalez, Thelma Sioson San Juan and Rey Ylagan. Not in photo: Neil Agonoy, Joy Rojas and Myra Cabaluna

Metro

Your magazine statement in one word:
Pinoy original ... ok, two words.
What sets you apart from the competition:
1) We're original.
2) We do it. They follow.
3) We put a disco ball atop some celeb's balls.
Favorite cover personalities:
Gretchen B, Angel Aquino, Tessa and Tim Yap
What readers don't know:
That we have a writer named Supaporn Poopattana. And that we discovered you, Tim.
Mission/vision:
We set lifestyle agenda .
Who reads you:
You and everybody else reading this page.

TUTTI FRUTTI. (From left) Mia Custodio, Gisela Go, Mia Fausto and Lora Cahol

Candy

Your magazine statement in one word: Fresh.
What sets you apart from the competition:
We make sure we give Candy girls original and fun ideas. At the same time, Candy is every Candy girl's happy place; a place where they feel they belong. Candy is every teenage girl's best friend.
Favorite cover girl:
Jenny Rockett. She's a true-blue Candy girl. She's smart, beautiful and well-rounded. And she grew up with Candy! Jenny is unafraid to embrace her imperfections. On her first cover shoot (she's had three with Candy!), Jenny proudly flashed her tin grin, helping Candy girls realize that braces are not something to be ashamed of.
What your readers don't know about you:
It feels like one, big classroom at the Summit Office!
Mission/vision: To bring out the best in every teen and to be there for her as she goes through all her teen insecurities.
Who reads you: High school girls who want to find their best self and have fun while growing up.

rom left) Joanna Bohol, Peewee Reyes, Mi[illegible] Calzanz, Mabel David and Ianis Gopez

Meg

Style statement in one word:
Hip.
What sets us apart from the competition:
Meg is your ultimate style sister. We keep you updated on the hippest fashion, beauty and pop culture trends, plus we help you deal with teen pressures with confidence and class! Our readers always say that Meg keeps things reachable and real. That's why it's a must-have for every girl!
Favorite cover subjects:
KC Concepcion (she's always a best-seller and super fun to shoot), our Meg Face winners (their excitement makes us feel like fairy godmothers!) ... and Jerry Yan!
Least-selling covers:
None!
What our (female) readers don't know about us:
Meg is also a must-have for every guy. Guys like to check out what girls are thinking, what they're interested in. Not to mention, they like to check out the girls, period!
Mission/vision:
To keep teens in the know about what's cute, hot and hip; to provide smart advice and inspiring stories to help bring out the best in them; and to promote girl power!
Who read us:
Smart, fun-loving and style-savvy teens!

Pink

Your magazine statement in one word:
Pink.
What sets you apart from the competition:
Pink is the only shopping magazine for *kikay* teenagers. We help provide them with the hippest choices to help them look oh-so-fab.
Favorite cover girls:
Lalaine Paras (a Pink exclusive!) Georgina Wilson, Channel V veejay Sarah Tan, Sandara Park and Mandy Moore.
Least-selling covers:
None.
What your readers don't know about you:
1) We have a male art director who knows what a bandeau and a multi-way bra are.
2) Everyone on the staff loves shopping, even before they joined the magazine.
Mission/vision:
Pink, the only shopping guide for teenage girls, aims to provide its readers with the widest array of choices, at the best value for money, in fashion and beauty—to help them keep up-to-date with the latest trends.
Who reads you:
Kikay teenage high school girls.

COLOR CODED CUTENESS. (From left) Bea Constantino, Jane Kingpu, [illegible] and Elizabeth Timbol

Dear Ate,
I have a lot of secrets and I want to share them with you. I think I'm in love again. Hindi kay mister, love ko na yun dati pa. Iba ito. Iba siya. Mas pinasarap niya ang buhay ko.

PORK PASTEL

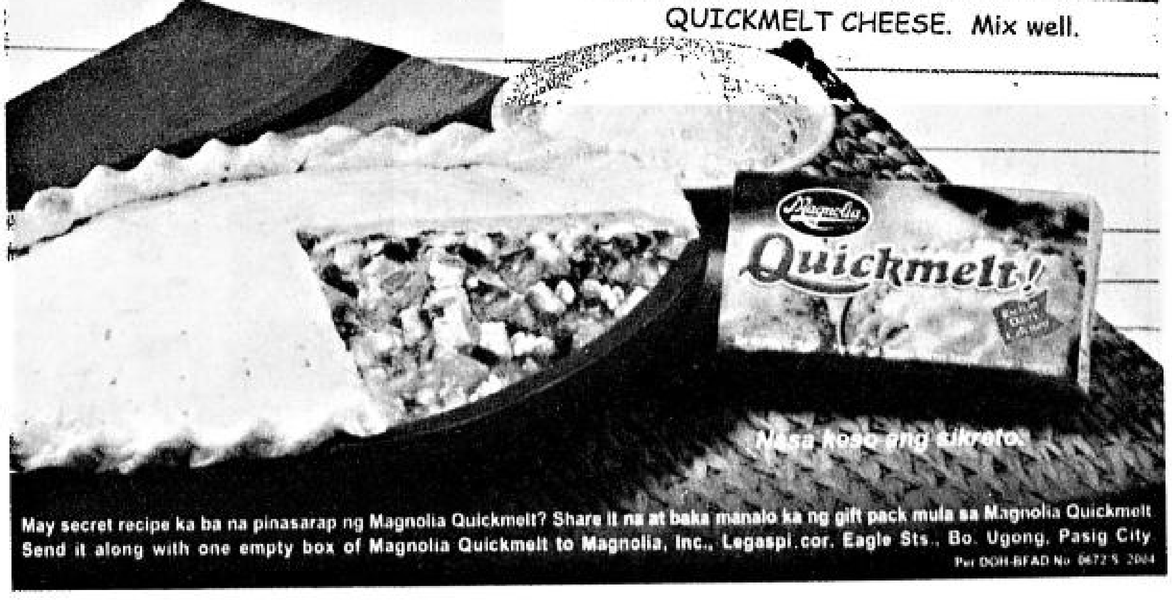
CRUST:
4 cups All purpose flour
1 tbsp. Sugar
1 tsp. Fine salt
1 tsp. Baking powder
1 cup Bakers Best Margarine, cut into small pieces
1/2 cup Cold water

Procedure: Mix flour, sugar, salt and baking powder. Cut margarine and mix to form pea size crumbs. Sprinkle water a tablespoon at a time and mix to form a ball. Refrigerate for one hour or freeze for 30 minutes. Roll out into a thin sheet. Rolling should be stiff to get a good result and roll in between two sheets of wax paper. Use to cover pastel placed in a baking dish. Prick crust with a fork to allow air to pass and prevent ballooning of crust. Bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 15 to 20 minutes or until golden in color.

Makes 6 to 8 servings.

FILLING:
1/4 cup Dari Crème Classic Margarine
1 tbsp. Minced garlic
1/2 cup Chopped onions
1 cup Red and green bell peppers, sliced into cubes
1-210 gm can Purefoods Chorizo Bilbao, sliced
1/2 kilo Monterey Pork Kasim (shoulder) menudo cut
1 cup Potatoes, sliced into cubes
1 cup Carrots, sliced into cubes
1-210 gm can Purefoods Vienna Tidbits
1/2 cup MAGNOLIA QUICKMELT CHEESE, grated
3 to 4 cups water

Procedure: Melt margarine in a saucepan. Saute garlic and onions. Add bell peppers, chorizo and pork kasim. Cook until pork changes in color. Pour in water and broth of Vienna tidbits. Cover and let boil. Allow to simmer and keep covered until meat is tender. Add potatoes and cook until tender. Stir in carrots and Vienna tidbits. Cook for a couple of minutes and add MAGNOLIA QUICKMELT CHEESE. Mix well.



May secret recipe ka ba na pinasarap ng Magnolia Quickmelt? Share it na at baka manalo ka ng gift pack mula sa Magnolia Quickmelt Send it along with one empty box of Magnolia Quickmelt to Magnolia, Inc., Legaspi cor. Eagle Sts., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City
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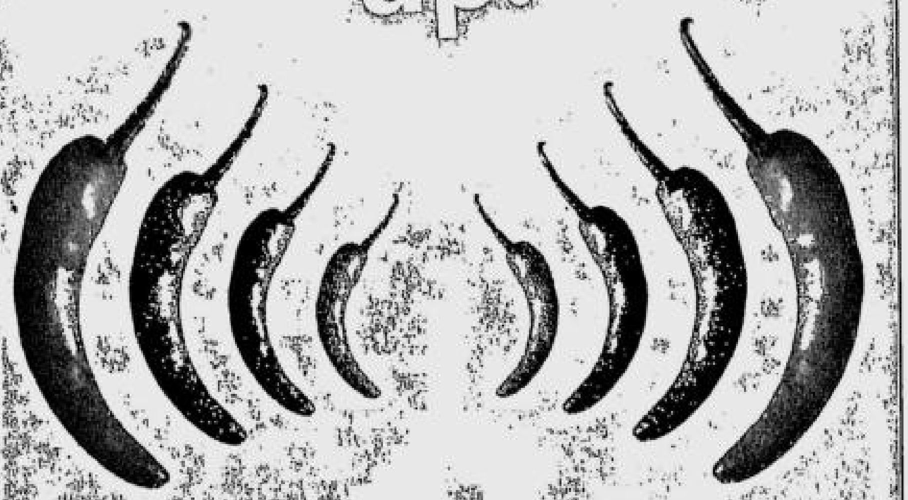
Spice 'em up!



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Text RING ADD <Ring ID> and send to 286. RING ADD 101070

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South Border - The Show	100614
OPM	
Rivermaya - Balisong	100897
The Mongols - Bakit Nga Ba?	100638
Freestyle - Before I Let You Go	100044
Gladys & The Boxers - Sasakyan Kita	100223
POP/COVERS	
Imagine	101076
Against All Odds	101070
Smells Like Teen Spirit	101081
Stop! In The Name Of Love	101082
Another One Bites The Dust	101072
Ain't No Mountain High Enough	101071
I Heard It Through The Grapevine	101075
How Am I Supposed To Live Without You?	101074

South Border & Rivermaya - P45, all other Ringtunes - P30 per transaction. Valid for 2 months.

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Know Title and Ring ID of a Friend's Ringtune	RING LIST <friend's cellphone number> (Ex. RING LIST 09208140940)
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VIA IVR (INTERACTIVE VOICE RECORDING)	Call 1513 and follow the voice instructions.
VIA WAP	Click on *Amazing Stuff* link from SMART wapsite then select ***Caller Ringtunes***
VIA WEB	Listen B4 U Download! Log on to ***http://ring.smart.com.ph/smart***

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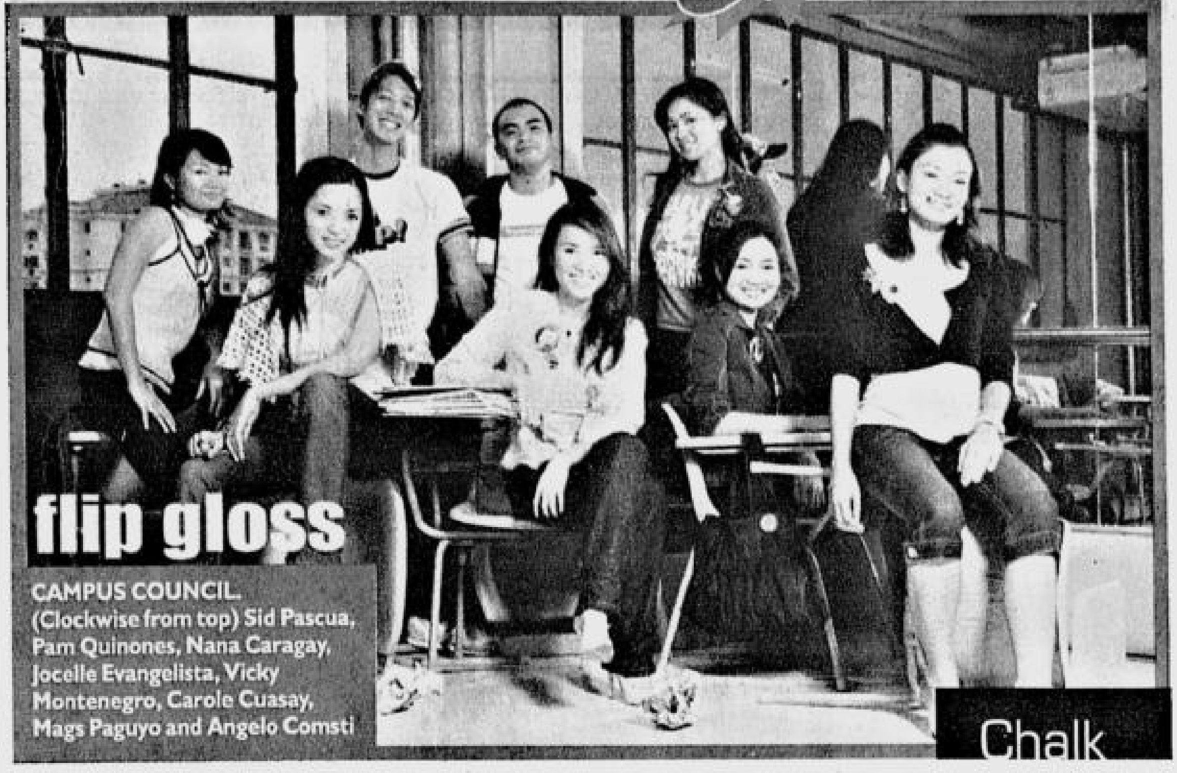

CAMPUS COUNCIL. (Clockwise from top) Sid Pascua, Pam Quinones, Nana Caragay, Jocelle Evangelista, Vicky Montenegro, Carole Cuasay, Mags Paguyo and Angelo Comsti

Chalk

Your magazine statement in one word:
COLLEGE!
What sets you apart from the competition:
We make college look so good you'd never want to graduate!
Favorite cover girls:
Alessandra, Heart.
What your readers don't know about you:
That we're like them—we cram and we break rules too.
Mission/vision:
Inform, inspire and empower the Filipino youth.
Who reads you:
People who want more

You can be the next Supahstar!

MTV Philippines is searching for the next big supahstar. If you have secret fantasies of being a true celebrity, then don't miss this opportunity to be discovered. Join the ultimate talent search—D' Supah Search!

After successful auditions in Cebu, Davao and Baguio, it's time for the Supahstar fever to hit Manila. Bring your Supah self and your Supah talent and join the MTV Supahstar auditions on Saturday, Aug. 28 at the SM Megamall Building A atrium. Registration starts at 10 a.m. Avid spectators can stick around the whole day, watch the first round and return on Sunday, Aug. 29, to watch more of the action in the second round, as the casting directors select the 20 Supahstar finalists from Manila.

The contest is open to male and female non-professional artists, 18 to 25 years old. One million pesos worth of prizes and incentives are at stake, including an exclusive recording contract with Warner Music Philippines, a grand launching concert, the release of your own CD, plus your very own music video on MTV. You're guaranteed to have an experience you'll never forget as you face celebrity casting directors Andrew E., Radha, and Tim Yap. MTV VJs and funnyman Tim Tayag will provide nonstop entertainment.

Seize the chance to turn your dreams into reality. For more details on the search, tune in to MTV. MTV Supahstar will hit the airwaves in September, exclusively on MTV.

The hottest stars come together in the HIPPEST BAZAAR ever to grace the Metro.

Super MARKET
A CELEBRITY - CHARITY BAZAAR

Akafellas * Amanda Griffin
Andrew E * Antonio Aquitania
Geneva Cruz * JM Rodriguez
Joe d' Mango * Kate Torralba
KC Concepcion * KC Montero
Marc Nelson * Margie Moran Floirendo
Mylene Dizon * Phoemela Barranda
Piolo Pascual * Rissa Samson * Tim Yap
and more...

Super shop for a cause!
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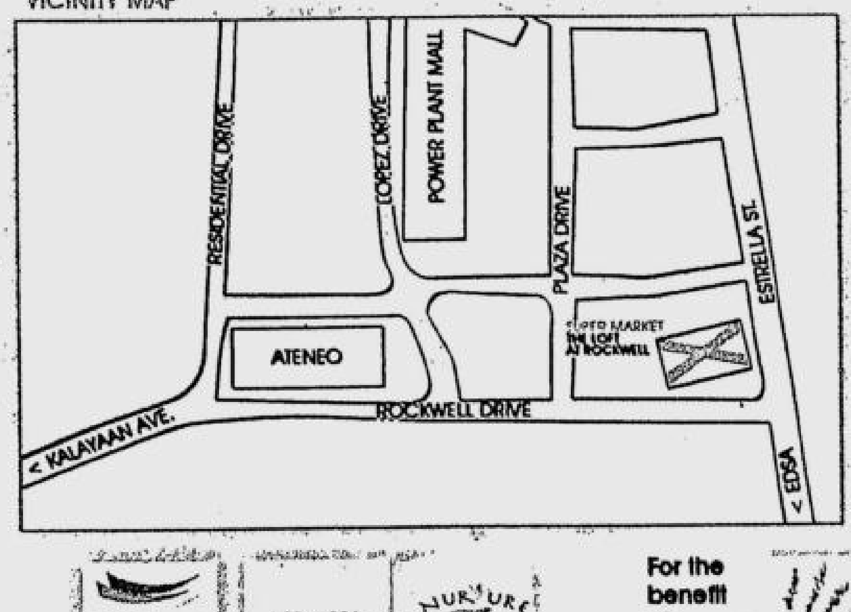
Over 70 booths to choose from!

August 29 Sunday
9 AM - 7 PM
The Loft at Rockwell

All major credit cards are accepted!

VICINITY MAP



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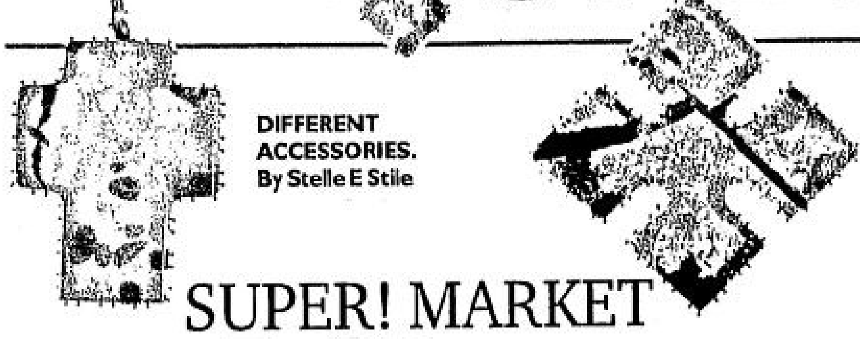
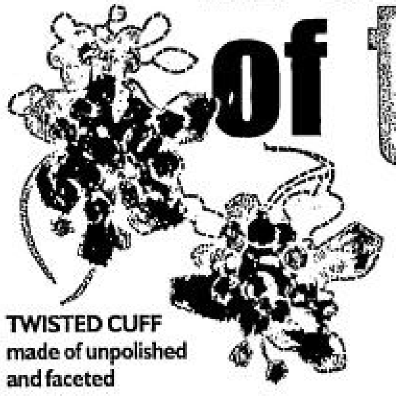
SATURDAY Super



DIFFERENT ACCESSORIES. By Stelle E Stile

SUPER! MARKET

A Gloss-ery of treats



TWISTED CUFF made of unpolished and faceted amethyst, rose quartz, fuchsia, pink and violet Swarovski crystals embedded on aluminum and stainless steel wire, P1,875. By Ciara Creates.

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Rudy Esperas

OVER 70 booths + 20 celebrities + hundreds of goodies + a charitable cause + hourly raffle prizes + your friends + your moolah.

This is the formula for your perfect Sunday.

Tomorrow, Aug. 29, unleash your inner shopping

A GLOSS-ERY/ H2

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moments
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with
a good
cup
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Your success is our business

A Gloss-ery of treats

monster at the Super! MARKET, Super!'s charity bazaar which will take place at The Loft, at Rockwell.

Buy stuff from your favorite celebrities and Super! columnists—Gino De La Paz, Tals Diaz, Giselle Segovia, Tim Yap, KC Concepcion, Amanda Griffin, Tessa Valdes, Mylene Dizon, Andrew E., Akafellas, Kate Torralba, Margie Moran, Marc Nelson, Joe D Mango, Geneva Cruz, KC Montero, Rissa Samson, JM Rodriguez, Phoemela Barranda, Piolo Pascual and others. And that's just the start.

We've got great finds from bazaar veterans—from clothes and bags to accessories and yummy food items. There's no doubt about it, these young entrepreneurs have what it takes to quell your shopping appetite.

And there's no need to feel guilty about indulging because 10 percent of the proceeds will go to Hands On Manila, a non-profit organization that recruits, educates and coordinates with new volunteers to help them find different organizations to work with.

Also, we will be raffling off fun prizes every hour—gift certificates from Seattle's Best Coffee, CDs, VCDs and DVDs from Odyssey Music and Video store, overnight accommodations at Linden Suites, overnight accommodations in a deluxe room at The Westin Philippine Plaza, longest dinner buffet for two at The Westin Philippine Plaza, facial and massage treatments from Weighless Center, spa treatments from Urban Spa, accommodations and spa treatments from Nurture Spa and travel certificates to any part of the country for two via Superferry with suite accommodations and meals.

Here's a preview of what you can expect from the Super! MARKET. Create your shopping list—but we promise that you won't be able to stick to it.

So raid your piggy banks, swipe your ATMS, prepare your credit cards, bring your friends and your family, and get ready to shop the Super! way.

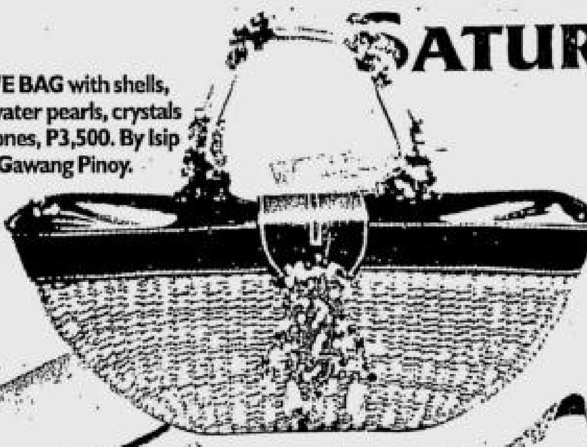
We'll be waiting for you there.

All items on this page will be available at Super! MARKET. Our booths will open at 9 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. For inquiries, please call Hazel at 897-8808 local 259.

"GLORIA" purple and cream *terno* bag with rhinestone dragonfly brooch. By Villareal. Available at the Get Happy booth.

SUPER! garment bag, P450. By the Super!team.

NATIVE abaca bag, P350. By Bustamante.



NATIVE BAG with shells, fresh water pearls, crystals and stones, P3,500. By Isip Pinoy, Gawang Pinoy.

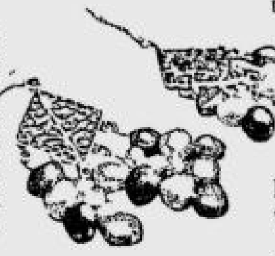
ORANGE Shantung silk clutch bag with chain. Chain is accented with crystals and semi-precious stones. The chain can be removed and made into a lariat, P950 to P1,350. By Mia Villanueva.

COLORFUL bags, P199 each. By Bipasha.

FLOWER BAGS. By Kate Torralba.

EARRINGS, P20 to P60. By Jeri Joson.

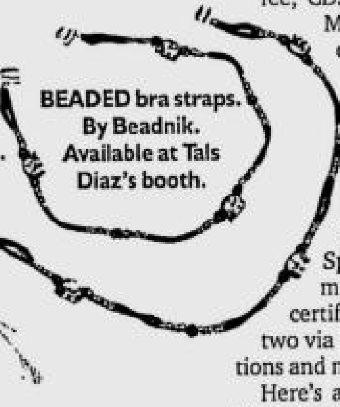
DIFFERENT ACCESSORIES. By Stelle E Stile.



STERLING silver filigree earrings with fresh water pearls in orange and ivory combination, P750 to P1,200. By Mia Villanueva.

HAND painted bracelet. By Bohemiana.

HAND PAINTED necklace. By Bohemiana.



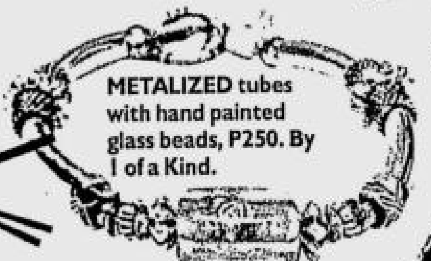
BEADED bra straps. By Beadnik. Available at Tals Diaz's booth.

PERSONALIZED TAGS, P70 each. By Tagz.

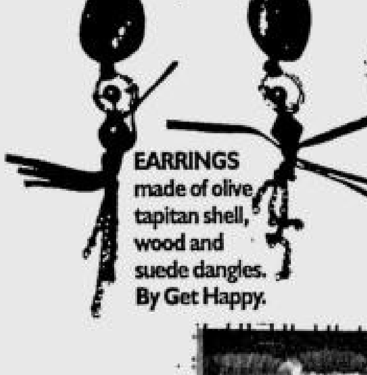
JEWELRY SET, P4,500. By Isip Pinoy, Gawang Pinoy.

SUPER! ACCESSORIES. By Stelle E Stile.

MONA LISA laminate charm bracelet. By Get Happy.



METALIZED tubes with hand painted glass beads, P250. By 1 of a Kind.



EARRINGS made of olive tapitan shell, wood and suede dangles. By Get Happy.

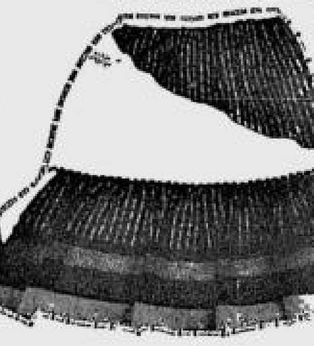
SUPER! shirts for ladies, P200. By Super!

HIS-AND-HERS Super! shirts, P220 and P200. By the Super!team.

BLACK Super! shirt for me P220. By the Super! team

BONIFACIO shirt. By Tals Diaz.

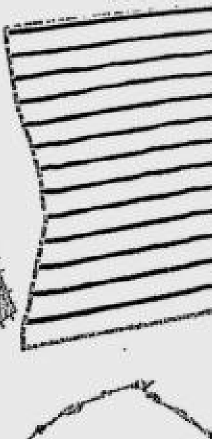
LONG SLEEV
knitted top.
Super.



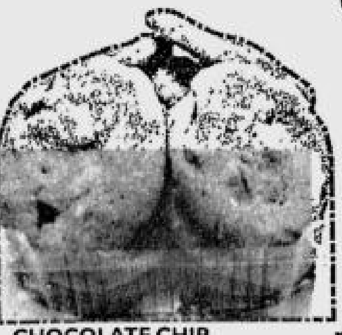
VINTAGE hooded coat, P1,700. By Gino De La Paz.

VINTAGE hooded coat.
P1,700. By Gino De La Paz.

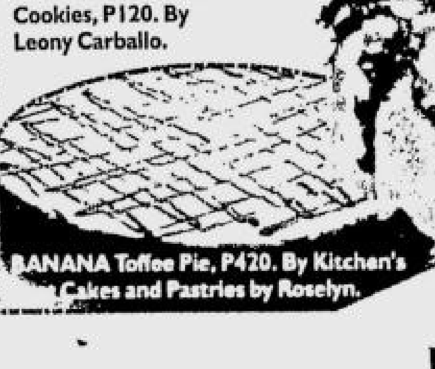
K-TEE set. By Kate Torralba.



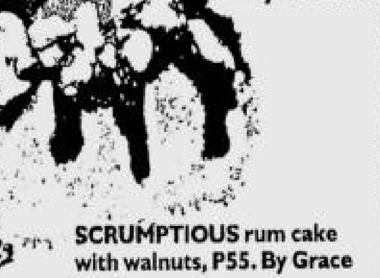
PEANUT Butter Bars, P190 for 14 pieces and P240 for 20 pieces. By Kitchen's Best Cakes and Pastries by Roselyn.



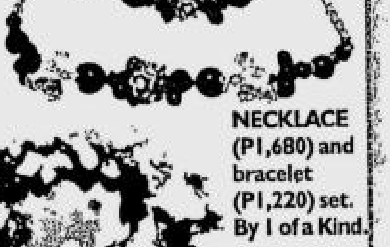
CHOCOLATE CHIP Cookies, P120. By Leony Carballo.



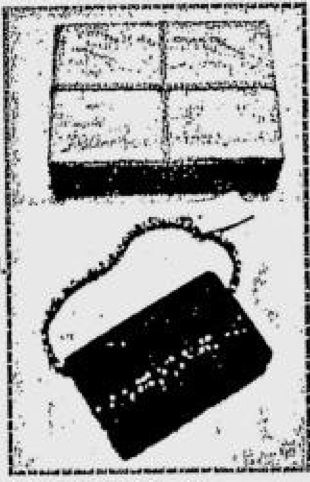
BANANA Toffee Pie, P420. By Kitchen's Cakes and Pastries by Roselyn.



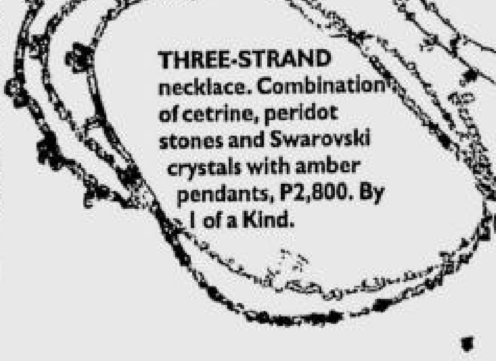
SCRUMPTIOUS rum cake with walnuts, P55. By Grace Joson.



NECKLACE (P1,680) and bracelet (P1,220) set. By 1 of a Kind.



EVENING BAG with Swarovski crystals, pearls and stones, P3,800. By Isip Pinoy, Gawang Pinoy.



THREE-STRAND necklace. Combination of cetrine, peridot stones and Swarovski crystals with amber pendants, P2,800. By 1 of a Kind.

TWO-STRAND necklace. Combination of M.C. and Swarovski crystals, sterling silver with an H-lock, P2,750. of a Kind.

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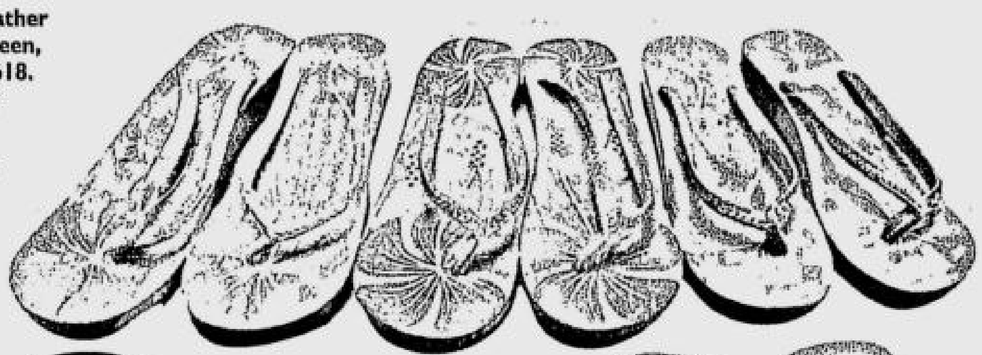
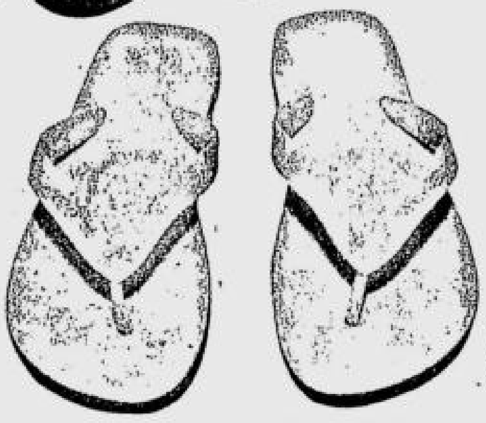
METALLIC leather bag in mint green, P3,850. By 1.618.


WOODEN thong sandals with sequins, P399. By Sugar.

METALLIC leather bag in soft pink with rhinestone buckles, P3,850. By 1.618.

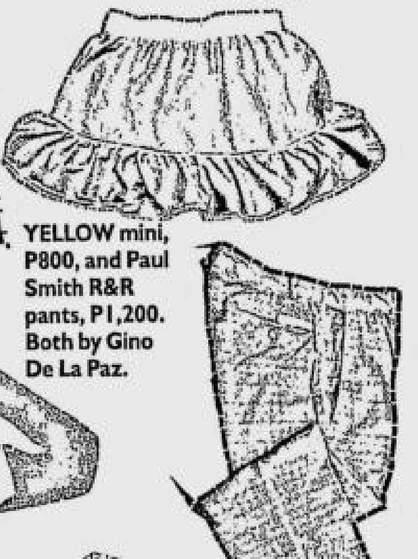
GET this huge Bluffy bear for only P500. Beach Ball, P180. By Soft Spot.

NATIVE abaca bag, P350. By Bustamante.


CITRUS for your feet. Orange flip flops, P615. By Havaianas.

STUFFED pup, P250. By Soft Spot.

CHINESE BAG with bamboo handles and wine dress with sparkling sake. By Asia Mix.

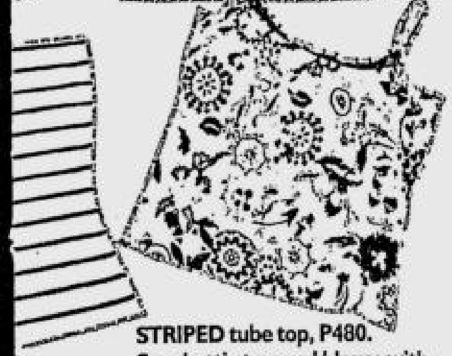

YELLOW mini, P800, and Paul Smith R&R pants, P1,200. Both by Gino De La Paz.

PRAIRIE skirt, P650. By Gino De La Paz.

PLAID pants, P650. By Gino De La Paz.

COLORFUL pajamas, P495 per set. By Naptyme.

RINGER Tee, P350. By Gino De La Paz.


STRIPED tube top, P480. Spaghetti-strapped blouse with lace trim, P480. By Floral Fantasy.

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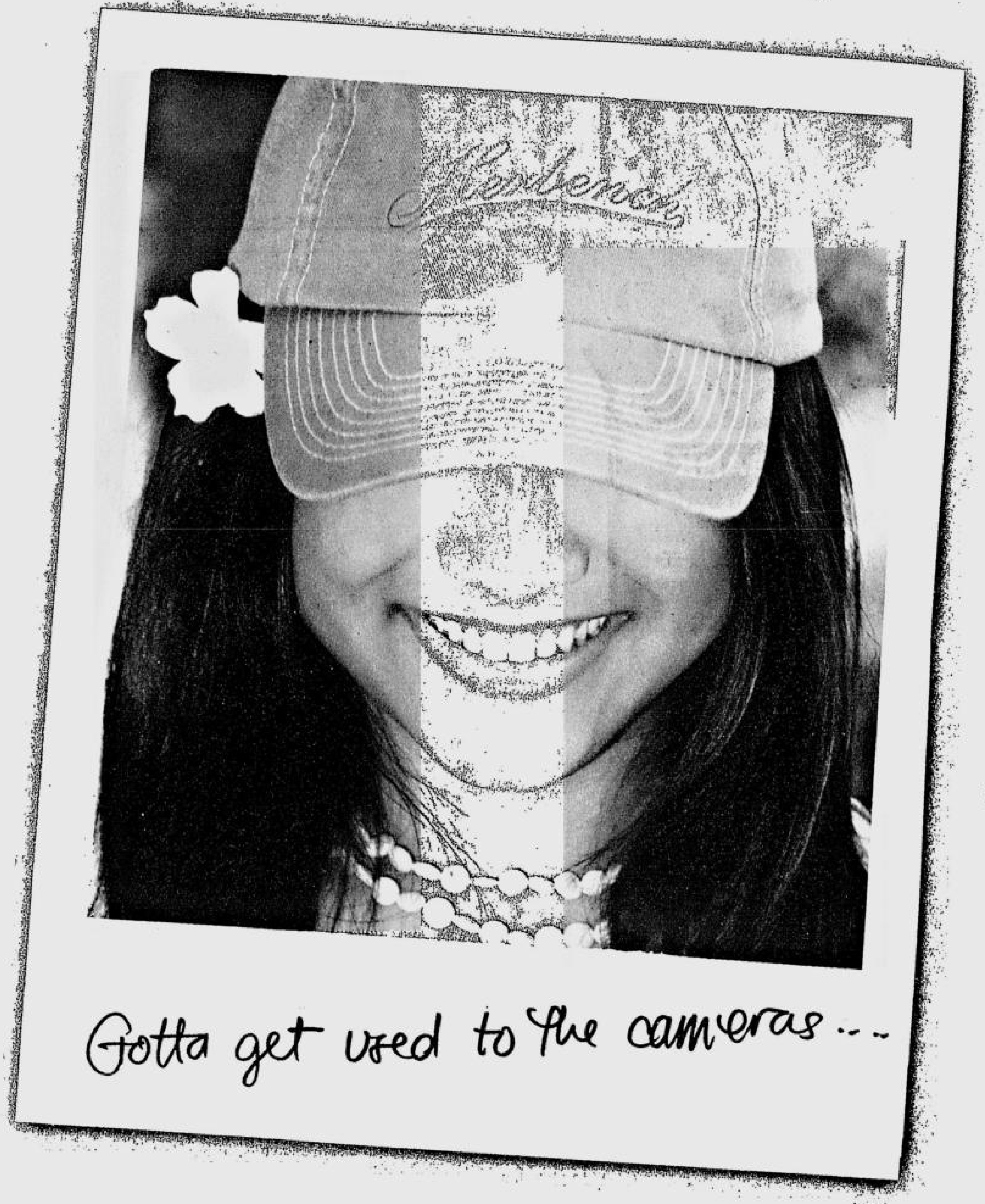
SUPER! Umbrellas, P350. By the Super! team.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Super
ATHENS TO ATHENS
swatch

Swatch A list to Athens

By Tim Yap

ONE day before Swatch man Borgy Manotoc and Tessa Prieto-Valdes left for Athens, Greece, I actually got a call to go there with them! Alas, my Swatch schedule wouldn't allow it.

Missing the closing ceremonies in Greece is one thing, but skipping the "Sports Time at the Ayala Center" auction at Greenbelt 3 is another. I've collected far too many money cards (what you'll need to join the auction, honey!) to miss this once-in-a-lifetime bidding!

Anyways, I'm sure Borgy will have a great story about it (to be published here in Super!), and since Tessa will be away, I will be the one to play! As auctioneer and active bidder, of course. See you all this Sunday.

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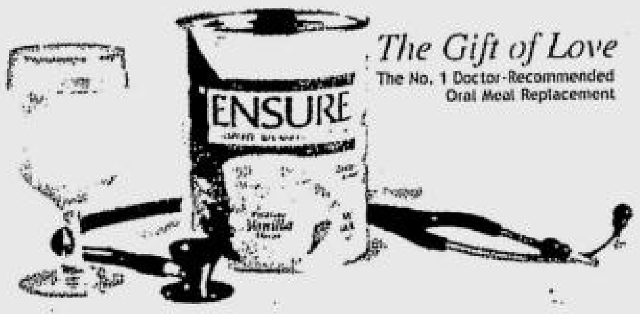

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Back in Bohemia

JUST left the Philippines, the islands that I love!

I'm back in Bohemia and the neighborhood of kings. I believe the time has come for another one of my mildly entertaining updates. Many asked when my next Super! essay was due. The gap was something I did not anticipate at all. However, in the course of my absence I landed in Tim's Yaparazzi almost every week (there is a reason for everything)!

> Here in Paris, I have learned to shampoo my hair and scrub the bath tub at the same time, and answer the door while brushing my teeth

KULIT CO.

KC Concepcion

And because both Paris and Manila restlessly and effortlessly churn out never-ending tales, nothing can stop my hands from typing away as they're doing now, as though this were a personal blog (is that still the word used?).

So fret not. And thank you, INQUIRER, for this very public private space that allows me to reach out to the world with hopefully informative and in-depth randomness. My pursuit of excellence involves eliminating the definitive art of selective hearing, selective thinking, and selective Saturday-Super-ing. Let's give a big kiss to all of life's imperfections, celebrate happy thoughts, and smile. This is my way of thanking my dear readers for their loyalty. it's great motivation to know you are riding along!

Turbulence

Still on the road to discovering my Personal Legend. It is strange that, embarking on the journey away from life changes so quickly, and quite drastically, from point A—curfews, gated neighborhoods, bodyguards—to point B—*"Bahala ka sa sarili mo!"*, *"Gumawa ka nga ng sariling diskarte."*

I must admit that plane rides are starting to get scary. I think traveling alone quite a bit these days is making me even more paranoid that the more often I ride a plane, the more chances of some mishap taking place.

Just before I got into panic mode, the smell of peppermint oil permeated the cabin. This either distracted me or calmed my senses. Having transited through Bangkok, where people seem to become more and more laid back, nature-loving and soul-centered, I was pleasantly culture-shocked to find a Parisien couple seated three rows in front of me. Girl had her feet up, baby chuckles filling the air as Boy gave her a (presumably) free, if second-rate, Thai foot massage. The peppermint oil!

It got me thinking: there are times when we get sucked into the typical, the scripted, the routine. Until one little thing happens that makes us see through a child's eyes again. For Girl, it was forgetting urban stresses, kicking off her shoes and indulging in a simple pleasure. For me, it was realizing that I was on the upper deck of a plane for the very first time in my life, having had to climb a little stairwell to get to my seat. It was, I suddenly remembered, something I always wished to do as a child.

During take-off—hands shaking stupidly as a result of an irrational phobia for flying that was never there before—I managed to pull out a letter from my parents. It could be only one of two things, I thought: a literary masterpiece constructed to reprimand, or the usual parental love letter filled with wisdom, advice and all the mushy stuff that make children cry. I realized I didn't fear flight turbulence as much as I feared being freed again. As a defense mechanism, I started being afraid of acknowledging, and appreciating, the support and love that comes only from family. *Ay senti!*

48 hours after

Two mornings after the landing (yes, the plane did touch down in one piece, phew!), a sucker for sunlight couldn't possibly be disappointed. It was nice and warm and even more beautiful in the city! Surprisingly enough, things were slightly slower-paced, since most Parisiens had gone out of town. I must say it was sooo good to see that even this highly stressed society knew when it was time to take a break, and come back tan and happy!

On my way back home from the supermarket G20, I spotted a print ad at the bus stop which said, "Paris—The City That Protects Love (*Paris—La Ville qui Protege L'Amour*)." The first 20 weeks that I lived here, I wasn't sure that this place wasn't too harsh for me. The next couple of months were more like, okay, people seem lonely here, and they find it suspicious when you smile. When April came, apart from the fact that my heart melted after 13 of my newest friends threw a fabulous surprise birthday cruise for me down the River Seine, I knew that things would get better as soon as I came to terms with, and then thrive on, my love for new worlds, eclectic people, languages, the arts and the fact that I am living where many artists came to be inspired.

The first year of being alone was like being put under construction! So many things had to be learned, that my heart and mind were taking such big bites at life. No rest, no room to taste and enjoy everything that was coming

BACK, I2

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Where there's smoke...

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

IF THERE is one place in the world where I feel most like a social pariah, it is the smoking room of any international airport. This dark corner carved into the transit lounge has the feel of a gas chamber in a circle of hell. It bears the size of a small shoebox and is encased in glass windows for the viewing pleasure of all the lucky non-smokers outside to witness the sorry lot of the imprisoned nicotine addicts. Inside, seated on rudimentary benches, smokers cannot even look each other in the eye through the ghostly haze, as if burdened by the ultimate shame and guilt of the incarcerated on death row. In fact, one would be hard-pressed to finish a stick, for the thick second-hand smoke within the airtight chamber is enough to send anybody into a coma. To get an idea of the torturous experience, imagine stepping inside a car's *tambucho* and inhaling deeply—perhaps that would even be a more pleasant experience.

Suffering smokers

In a world that is judiciously growing a healthy and environment-friendly conscience, smokers are fast becoming a dying breed—literally and figuratively, of course. The Clean Air Act, in particular, has made sure that all manner of discomfort is conferred upon stubborn chain smokers in the hopes that they would soon see the light beyond the filters and contemplate a tobacco-free lifestyle. In accordance with government efforts, many restaurants, bars and cafés have closed down their smoking sections and banished the weak to the muggy purgatory of the outdoors. Those within the caffeine-addicted subset (myself included) are indeed the most miserable of the lot, especially since no outdoor coffee shop in Manila can simulate the pleasant climate of a Parisian cafe—where one may while away hours on end, enjoying each flavored sip and tobacco-tainted breath. Here of course, quaffing up steaming brews on a blistering afternoon is about as pleasant as pulling your own molar with a heated tong.

Thank God the fates of bar-crawling night owls are a little more favorable. Given the fact that a substantial number cannot possibly conceive of savoring San Miguels without puffing on Marlboros, the peripheries of many urban establishments have become the most happening areas to hang out and meet people. Smokers' frustrations have in fact become very effective icebreakers among singles who have discovered that shared weaknesses have instant bonding properties.

These constraints, on top of constant nagging by the omniscient Surgeon General, have become enough reason for me to give up my 10-year-old vice. This is perhaps the only case I know where quitters actually win, and thus, I've considered extinguishing the cancer stick for good.

Right. Easier said than done.

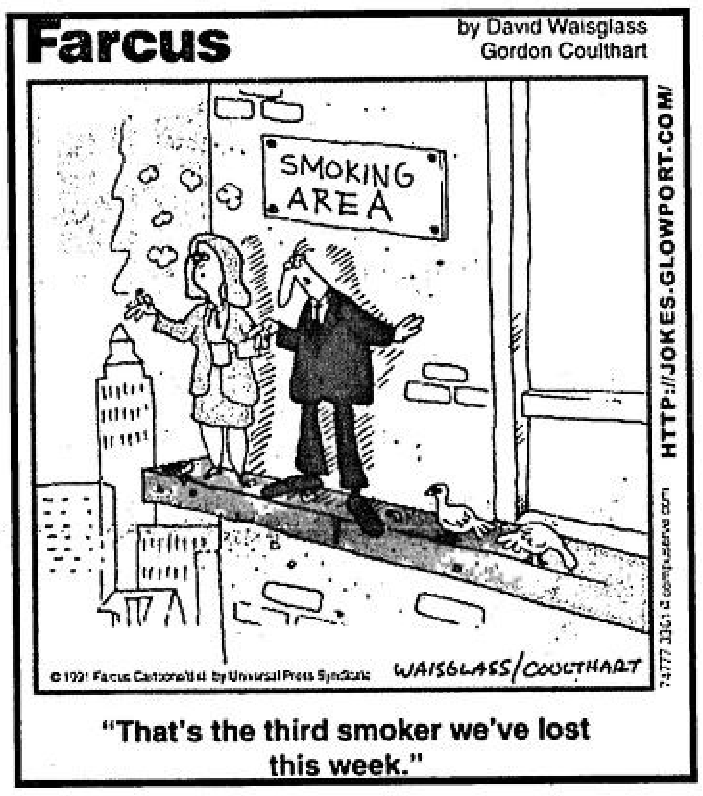
Tobacco company

Non-smokers, bless their clean souls, think that quitting is about as easy as changing brands of toothpaste. Not quite. Only other smokers could possibly know the extreme difficulty, the ensuing madness and fits of insanity that come with attempting to quit. For me, much harder to break than the physiological addiction is the psychological dependence. Where do I begin? For one, the utter delectation, the sheer delight of lighting up after a sumptuous, heavy meal is just so damn pleasurable that one could write sonnets about it. Deep, insightful conversations about the complexities and inanities of life are somehow enhanced with the feel of the filter between the index and middle fingers—the better to stress one's point when aiming fire at another's general direction. Cigarettes are the best way to prolong discourse in good company, and can even extend dinners till the first light of day. Sometimes, cigarettes cease being a sideshow to the affair and become the main event itself, being reason enough for friends to gather for a smoke or five.

One of my best friends chronicles past Boracay vacations with the memory of smokes at key moments of the trip. "Wow, the water was so beautiful when I went out to smoke the first cig of the day." "Ahhh, that massage felt so good while I smoked!" "My God, wasn't that Indian meal just wonderful especially with *yosi* for dessert?"

CHICKS with sticks

Failing lungs, social exile, financial woes–you'd think it would be so easy to quit smoking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Pavlov and placebo

Never more so do I become Pavlov's lapdog when it comes to this vice! Whenever stress creeps up, when the rains fall, whenever a distraught friend calls for advice, heck, even when I simply see a nice little lounge configuration of chairs and a table, I reach for my pack. In spite of knowing about the long list of ill-effects, I still I seem to work better and think more clearly after smoking. Could I possibly be placebo sucker? Novelist and three-pack-a-day chainer Gabriel Garcia Marquez admitted in his autobiography that he could never finish writing a sentence without a cigarette in hand, as if it were a conduit for inspirations from another world. Another writer, Ayn Rand, once described smoking as one way that mankind is able to "tame fire."

Romantic notions of progressive suicide aside, I am absolutely determined to kick the habit in the groin for good. It bothers me that I can be controlled by a little roll of tobacco. Add the fact that I once calculated how much I could have saved in a year had I not burned money away cutting my lifespan short—I could have bought a brand new Mac. Thus, I am ready to live a life with healthy lungs, without a perennial stink on my fingers and spared from the countless sermons that my mother inflicts on me on a regular basis. I've even been practicing my "non-smoker look"—you know, that look of repugnance each time a vile smoker reaches for a lighter.

Method in madness

OK, maybe I should try harder. I've given myself deadlines, with the auspicious dates of every January 1 and my birthday as a starting point for quitting, but it would only take one clever little devil—or one movie showing Johnny Depp puffing his lungs away—to convince me that "just one more wouldn't hurt." I've tried choking the life out of my social life, locking myself up within the confines of my room to embark on a new life of Zen meditation. Still, disciples in need of my so-called wisdom would always find their way to my temple, brandishing burning sticks that aren't incense! I've tried buying those herbal, non-addictive cigarettes that promise total cure, but discovered soon enough that I don't quite fancy smoking carabao shit. I've even tried a "surefire" remedy that an old boyfriend taught me, taking a shot of tequila each time I smoked a cigarette. Of course, it didn't work, and well, neither did our relationship. It seems that slapping on the patch, hypnosis, lobotomy and acupuncture are in the pipeline for me.

So really, what better reason is there to never pick up the habit than seeing this desperate soul consumed by dementia and suffering in an endless quest to kick the stick for good?

(Email the author at: inca_orange@yahoo.com)

Night falls in 'The Village'

From page 14

—tragically multiplied all that by zero.

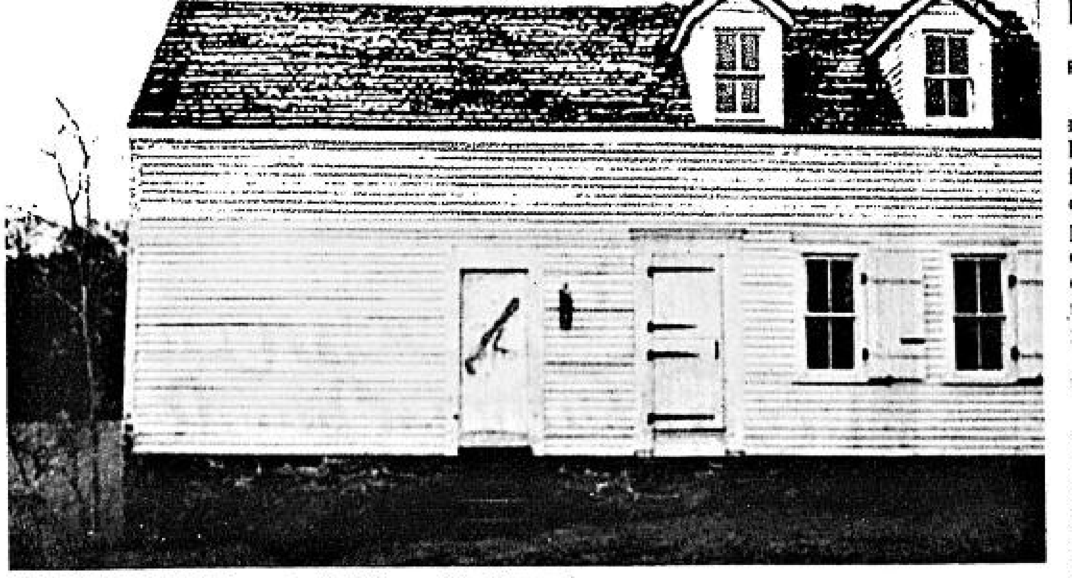
In sharp contrast, "The Village" hinges on a viewer's unusually high threshold to suspend disbelief. If "Signs" could be summed up as "Mars Attacks" meets "Contact," then "The Village" is "Little Red Riding Hood" coupled with any classic "Twilight Zone" episode. (Or, a Hitchcockian "The Simple Life." Whatever.) Bryce Dallas Howard's likeable portrayal of feisty Ivy Walker was part of Shyamalan's ploy. He wanted to convince us that a blind blonde in an ochre hood could travel through the woods, face a fictional beast that resembles Master Splinter from "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," and return alive. I mean, really now. If Edward Walker is smart enough to come up with such an elaborate hoax as Those We Don't Speak Of, why does he choose the weakest link in the village and not do the chore himself? Ivy may be the Helen Keller of her community but her other faculties are still functioning. She could just as easily be told the truth about their situation. I knew the viewers had finally become skeptical of the whole premise when, instead of empathizing with Ivy Walker, they laughed and pointed at her as she flew into a wall of twigs in a cartoon-like scene that suggested Disney's "Snow White." Sadly, that loophole is not even the cherry-shaped turd on this mountain of crap. Wait till you get to Shyamalan's trademark "surprise" conclusion.

'Unbearable'

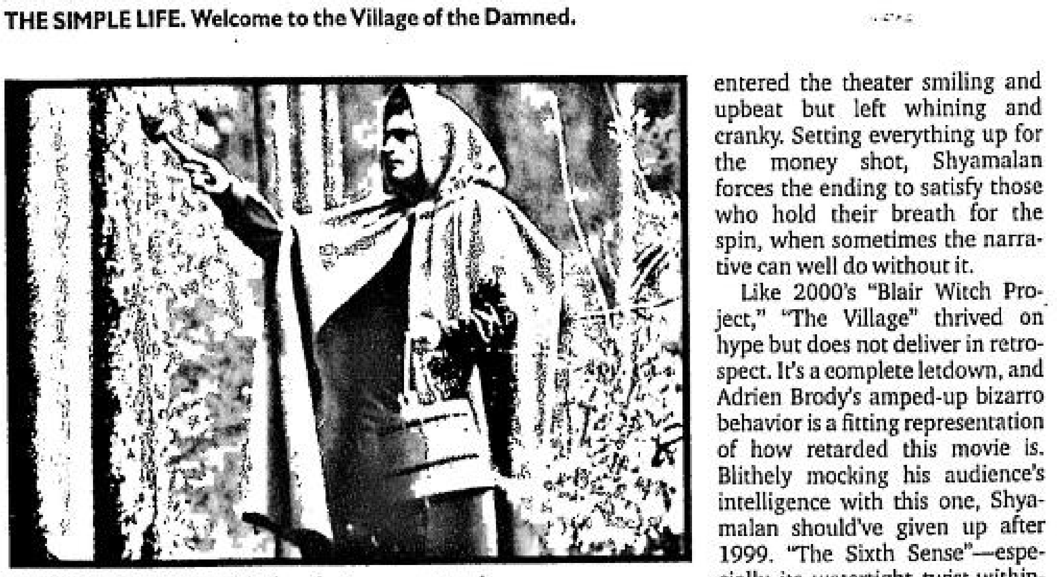
If you hate lame stuff, don't even watch "Unbreakable." Shyamalan's modest 2000 hit, "Unbreakable" was a superhero origin story in a noncomic book context. David Dunne (Bruce Willis) figures in a horrible train wreck that leaves 131 dead and a survivor—himself. Dunne is not only alive but escapes without a scratch. Fragile comic book collector and odds-on psycho Elijah Price (Samuel L. Jackson) contacts him to say that they are alike, just on opposite ends of the spectrum. In the end, serial killer Elijah Price is "sentenced to an institution for the criminally insane," which is comic geek talk for "his ass went to jail." There, I just saved you an hour and 47 minutes of pure pain. With a good concept but a bad execution, "Unbreakable" was like watching paint dry—slow and pointless.

The big ending of "The Village" is similarly contrived and painfully old hat. The utopian society that the council has built is apparently nothing more than a science experiment. All this time, the wholesome hicks—psychiatric patients and their descendants—have not been living in a 19th-century farm but in a present-day nature preserve owned by Edward Walker. Bizarre conclusions of this sort—as entertaining as they are in a way—have already been flogged to death by, again, "The Twilight Zone," "Outer Limits," and for chrissakes, even "Smallville." The cheaply manipulated sum-up neutralizes the 30 or so interesting minutes "The Village" actually has and leaves more holes in its wake than Dubya's justification of the Iraq invasion.

As far as "Unbreakable" and "The Village" go, the threadbare endings are alike: Audience leaves disgusted. With the exception of "The Sixth Sense," Shyamalan seems to have perfected the cinematic soufflé, a movie that is so hush-hush and sealed-off that it falls apart when exposed to outside logic. Three out his four films have been sub-par, as The Twists We Should Not Speak Of pose more questions than they answer.



THE SIMPLE LIFE. Welcome to the Village of the Damned.



BOY IN THE HOOD. Painting the town mustard

'The Seventh Sense'?

I sat through "The Village" because I was optimistic that somehow, things would get better. However, I realized that any movie that underutilizes Sigourney Weaver and overexposes Judy Greer—who has huge distracting eyebags and played Vilette in "Jawbreaker," by the way—couldn't be any good. More than that, it scared me that I was part of a besieged majority that entered the theater smiling and upbeat but left whining and cranky. Setting everything up for the money shot, Shyamalan forces the ending to satisfy those who hold their breath for the spin, when sometimes the narrative can well do without it.

Like 2000's "Blair Witch Project," "The Village" thrived on hype but does not deliver in retrospect. It's a complete letdown, and Adrien Brody's amped-up bizarro behavior is a fitting representation of how retarded this movie is. Blithely mocking his audience's intelligence with this one, Shyamalan should've given up after 1999. "The Sixth Sense"—especially its watertight twist-within-a-twist—was a phenomenon and obviously a fluke whereas the ones that followed, especially "The Village," were mere movies and huge doozies at that. Now that he has pigeonholed himself as a Big Twist Director, is M. Night Shyamalan a true artistic genius or a rusty one-trick pony?

Back in Bohemia

From page 11

my way as a teenager discovering life as part-tourist, part-local and full-time college student. But, one carries on like the rest of the populace! The ad was comforting despite a cheesy quality to it that could make people squirm. But then, that's Paris. Either you take it or ya leave it!

Ooh la-la

Time to do some household chores. I noticed that my neighbors were doing their own home-improvement thing. The lady in the apartment across mine just let out a melodic scream. "*Ooh la LA!*" She probably crushed her thumb from too much hammering. The French manage to make even hard times sound sing-songy. It was also like being a kid again, to learn to laugh in certain situations and take things with a grain of salt, to get things done no matter what, and move on. Here I shampoo my hair and scrub the bathtub at the same time (Scotch Brite on one foot does the trick), or answer the door while brushing my teeth because someone just popped up or sent a giant FedEx box. Which reminds me, I have something frying in the kitchen! Catch ya Saturday!

Sail on the wings of a cloud where to well nobody knows
And cry, cry if you want them to see, die every day to be free,
Be proud, to wear the colours that you call your own
Be loud, speak out when you want the world to know
Be strong, hold the flame for everyone to see
Be weak, if you want to love

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ALL NEW Cream Silk CONDITIONERS

HEADS UP! IT'S A POLLUTION-FIGHTING CONDITIONER!

Behind the Scenes of the New Cream Silk TV Commercial

From the first second, you are treated to images you have never seen before: Lea Salonga striding down a street with confidence, surrounded by what looks like a team of bodyguards, clad in Matrix-inspired, futuristic attire. A cloud of dust suddenly appears, and as if from a sci-fi movie, the bodyguards transform into transparent beings, kicking and punching the vicious dust and smoke away Lea's beautiful hair! It's a hair commercial unlike anything on TV.

That's the perfect launch for a hair conditioner that is also the first of its kind! The range of All – New Cream Silk conditioners can now protect hair from pollution, smoke and dirt! Just like the "hair guards" portrayed in the commercial, our hair can now have special protection from nasty elements wherever you go. Developed after years of intensive research at the Elida Hair Institute in Paris, this pollution-protection technology is called the Micro-Tech Shield System. According to Cream Silk assistant brand manager Joy Dela Rosa, this is a real breakthrough for daily hair care: "Shampoos clean hair only up to the time that you step out of the shower, new Cream Silk with Micro-Tech Shield keeps it clean by coating each hair strand with a protective slippery layer that allows dirt to slide off your hair. This coating action also works to lock in fragrance, keeping your hair smelling clean and fresh all day!"

Pollution is so pervasive these days that new Cream Silk is a product that is relevant to everybody. Even Lea Salonga, international actress and singer, knows its harsh effects first-hand: "I live in Los Angeles, and although its pollution level is dropping, there's still a fair amount of it (as is the case in many metropolitan areas around the world). I also spend time outdoors playing tennis, so being outdoors for a couple of hours will definitely affect my hair." She is happy to endorse Cream Silk since it offers so much more than shampoos and even other conditioners. Lea adds, "I think that it'll serve another purpose besides beauty. Thanks to Cream Silk's technology, beautiful hair isn't only attained, but also protected. Pollution in the cities is getting worse, so we need the tools at our fingertips to help fight it however we can."

It's such an amazing product, deserving of a kick off with an equally amazing commercial. Thus ad agency J. Walter Thompson developed what they call a kick-ass ad featuring Lea's protective sci-fi "hair guards." The agency team wanted to vividly demonstrate Cream Silk's incredible new action while creating hair advertising that was more exciting than the usual. With the help of talented young director, Sid Maderazo, they were able to make this vision come true, albeit with more challenges than usual. According to art director, Marge Melendez, "It was really tiring for everybody because we shot a lot of material under the sun, or under huge, hot lights." Director Maderazo echoes that sentiment, "lighting the hair under extreme conditions outdoors was quite a challenge. The shoot was also technically difficult because we had to shoot the same scene several times, sometimes with the hair guards in flying rigs so that we could put it all together in post production." Still the shoot remained an enjoyable experience says Melendez, "because the story was so action-packed, it was fun to shoot. There was a stunt choreographer on the set and almost all of the talents were skilled in one form of martial arts or another, so it was really great to watch them do their thing." Creative director Cynthia Dayco couldn't help but wish that the new Cream Silk was already available then. "We needed pollution protection at the shoot! One day of sitting outdoors in Fort Bonifacio made our hair so dry, matted and grimy. Worse than riding a jeepney along EDSA!"

Without new Cream Silk with Micro-Tech Shield as our hair's protective best friend, hair is a magnet for pollution, leaving it dry, tangled, and unmanageable. Lea agrees, "With pollution levels in Manila getting worse, we need more help to protect ourselves.

We take pains to look good when we leave our homes. The effort is in vain when, upon our arrival at work or school our hair is limp, lifeless and dull.

With new Cream Silk, at least we know that even when the world outside isn't so great, the effort we put into making our hair beautiful is worth the time we put into it."

Because everybody is exposed to a dirty environment, everyone is encouraged to use new Cream Silk Conditioner. Make it a part of your daily routine. Don't just stop at shampoo; condition your hair with new Cream Silk. It gives 100% expert conditioning so your hair becomes super smooth, soft and beautiful, while protecting it from pollution, dust and dirt. Like Lea's "hair guards" in the commercial, Cream Silk will fight off all those harmful elements. So you, too, can walk the streets with your head held high, your hair super beautiful no matter what comes your way!

Don't let pollution touch your hair!
Cream Silk
Cream Silk LEAVE-ON CONDITIONER
with Micro-Tech SHIELD

Introducing New Cream Silk now with Micro-Tech Shield.
Gives 100% conditioning and protects hair from dust, dirt, smoke and pollution.
Get 100% super beautiful, super protected hair na 'di kaya ng shampoo lang.

LEGALLY BLIND. Ivy Walker (Bryce Dallas Howard) chilling in the enchanted forest

Night falls in 'The Village'

(Spoiler alert! If you haven't seen 'The Village,' read at your own risk. Is M. Night Shyamalan a true genius or a one-trick pony?)

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

TO SOME degree, the barrage of slasher movies in the late 1990s made us all hope that the new millennium's thrillers would have a bit more bite and a lot less Jennifer Love Hewitt in them. Oddly enough, the heavens parted and answered our popcorn-fueled prayers. From the butt end of the last decade up until now, we have pumped our fists in the air to celebrate the return of meaty, creepy, big-gun chillers like "The Others" and "The Ring." Arguably though, it was M. Night Shyamalan's "The Sixth Sense" that started the spooky cavalcade.

Writer-director Shyamalan was born in Madras, India, and raised in a posh Philadelphia neighborhood. His first two theatrical efforts careened down the toilet faster than you can say "clunker." He finally found a five-word golden formula: "I can see dead people," the understated tagline of 1999's "The Sixth Sense." With guerilla word-of-mouth as its countermeasure to traditional advertising, the psychological thriller became a sleeper hit with both the movie-going public and the critics. Audiences have now assigned Shyamalan so much weight because of this lightning-in-a-bottle blockbuster. Perhaps all too aware of this, Shyamalan did not stray far from his big twist template with 2000's "Unbreakable," 2002's "Signs," and this year's "The Village."

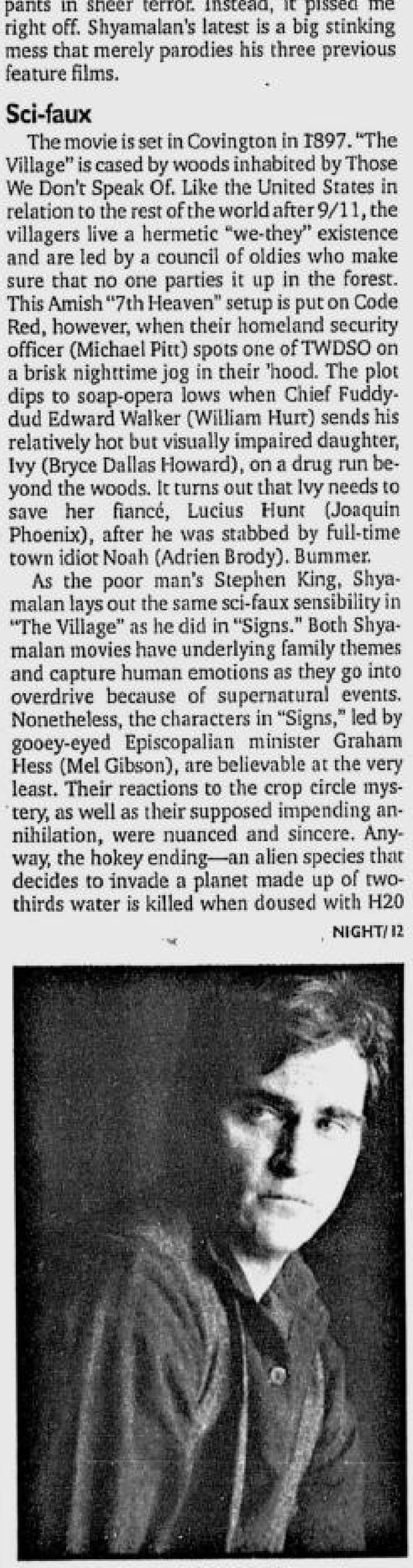
I have to admit that I defied normal logic when I allowed myself to be suckered by the movie's teaser trailer. Springing for tickets one night, I dragged two of my buddies to go see "The Village." I was psyched to pee my pants in sheer terror. Instead, it pissed me right off. Shyamalan's latest is a big stinking mess that merely parodies his three previous feature films.

Sci-faux

The movie is set in Covington in 1897. "The Village" is cased by woods inhabited by Those We Don't Speak Of. Like the United States in relation to the rest of the world after 9/11, the villagers live a hermetic "we-they" existence and are led by a council of oldies who make sure that no one parties it up in the forest. This Amish "7th Heaven" setup is put on Code Red, however, when their homeland security officer (Michael Pitt) spots one of TWDSO on a brisk nighttime jog in their 'hood. The plot dips to soap-opera lows when Chief Fuddy-dud Edward Walker (William Hurt) sends his relatively hot but visually impaired daughter, Ivy (Bryce Dallas Howard), on a drug run beyond the woods. It turns out that Ivy needs to save her fiancé, Lucius Hunt (Joaquin Phoenix), after he was stabbed by full-time town idiot Noah (Adrien Brody). Bummer.

As the poor man's Stephen King, Shyamalan lays out the same sci-faux sensibility in "The Village" as he did in "Signs." Both Shyamalan movies have underlying family themes and capture human emotions as they go into overdrive because of supernatural events. Nonetheless, the characters in "Signs," led by gooey-eyed Episcopalian minister Graham Hess (Mel Gibson), are believable at the very least. Their reactions to the crop circle mystery, as well as their supposed impending annihilation, were nuanced and sincere. Anyway, the hokey ending—an alien species that decides to invade a planet made up of two-thirds water is killed when doused with H20

NIGHT/12



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Mandy's manor

In search of a location set, this director of food commercials found the site for his future home

By Avie Gochoco-Perez
Contributor
Photos by Ava Lugtu
Pictorial direction by Antonio Salac Santos

THEY knew it was time to move out of Makati. Their two-bedroom apartment in Guadalupe, was closed day and night to keep the polluted air out. The air-conditioners were on round the clock. Their two young sons, one a two-year-old, were limited to playing indoors, or merely watching television.

The man of the house, director for food commercials Mandy Reyes—KFC, Chow King, Nissin's Eggnog, to name a few—sent out his staff one day in search of a "typical quaint neighborhood" for a Nissin's shoot. At the time, in 1996 or 1997, there were hardly any master-planned theme communities.

His staff saw Cottonwoods in Antipolo. It had only a handful of model houses.

When shown the location pictures on video, Reyes immediately liked what he saw. "It's beautiful. It looks like an American community," he said. "*Sige*, shoot *tayo*."

Visiting the location, he noted the serenity, the fresh air ... and trees everywhere! He knew he had found a location not just for a shoot, but for a permanent home. With the money he had saved up, a one-bedroom condo unit in Makati might have been all he could afford. Cottonwoods as an alternative made perfect sense.

Possible snags about moving to Antipolo included the long drive to work, and wife Chari's reluctance to uproot herself from Makati, where she had lived all her life. It helped make the decision easier that Mandy was used to traveling long distances even as a boy. From home in Cainta, Rizal, he endured the daily commute to school in Don Bosco, Mandaluyong. (Now his sons go to Ateneo, only 14 kms away, he says.) As a director, he keeps irregular hours, and doesn't have to travel during the traffic rush. And Chari? The moment she realized her children would get fresh air and all that space, she threw all hesitation to the wind.

High point

Luck was on the couple's side. They got the "highest point" in the village, a 500-sq.m. patch of hilltop property overlooking a preserved watershed. That view is the household's most precious "painting" today, shown off by big picture windows in the formal dining room. Sen.

MANDY'S/2

360° LIVING
A DIVISION OF BRITTANY CORPORATION

Where dancers' dreams take flight

"My choreography takes inspiration from nature–like the movement of birds in flight–that inspiration is something I get everyday here at home in Cottonwoods."

Douglas Nierras
Choreographer, Powerdance
Resident Artist

Cottonwoods

Come home to American country-inspired homes...
Where birds and butterflies fly free...
Where full-grown trees reach out with sheltering arms...
Where the elements play in perfect harmony...

The way to Cottonwoods

Cottonwoods is only 30 minutes away from Ortigas.

Call 842 1251 or 842 1360

Mandy's manor

From page 1

Manny Villar, principal owner of then Crown Asia and now Britanny Development Corp., which owns and runs Cottonwoods, had initially reserved the property for himself.

Mandy asked the contractor to build him a mere "shell" so he could fill in the details himself. This meant trotting out wood, wood and more wood for which he had developed a fascination. Browsing through international design books for sets to use in his commercials, he was exposed to beautiful home ideas -- wood flooring, paneling. "When I have my own house," he swore, "I'll have all the wood."

Since the Reyeses moved to Cherrywood St., Cottonwoods six years ago, they have renovated their home twice. The original 500-sq.m. property has grown to some 1,400 sq.m. with the purchase of two adjoining lots that Rep. Cynthia Villar used to own. The acquisition and attendant home renovation have dragged the Reyeses into a running battle with the village association board. The board contends that only house-and-lot packages, not lot-only purchases, can be transacted in the subdivision.

The Reyeses argue that when the economy slumped, the developer adjusted to the times and started selling lots without houses. When word reached Villar that the Reyeses were interested in her two lots, she gave her nod.

Room for toys

Today, the extra space has translated to Mandy and Chari's new formal dining room, a library where Mandy showcases "toys for the big boys," including rows of miniature car and airplane scale models. He picks up a glass plaque. "I won best in show," he says gingerly, "but only for miniature cars."

In a place of honor is a "football" machine. He recalls: "I have played that since I was a kid. All Bosconians are good at the sport because of the Italian priests."

His real toys are in the garage, of course—a Mercedes Benz and a BMW sports car.

As she had a very small kitchen where they used to live, Chari went for the luxury of space and function this time around. The new kitchen was to occupy what was once the maids' quarters with a low ceiling. She installed lots windows on the walls to let in the light and the view.

Thus, an informal dining room-cum-clean kitchen with Wolf and Subzero appliances punctuating lots of counter space and storage "grew" in the basement. "I can make food look good but not taste good," the food commercial director laughs, referring to his choice of top-of-the-line appliances.

Also down in the basement is a playroom that the kids can mess up all they want. For one birthday party, Mandy set up railroad tracks and trains, to the kids' delight. During family get-togethers, the younger ones automatically make a beeline for the playroom, accessible from the garden outside. But of course, where there is a romper room, there is also a study room in which to keep calm.

Mandy's fascination with wood is well marked in his home. The paneling is in cherry wood. The cabinetry is in oak. The flooring is in *narra*. But the biggest news is in the formal living room, with pure tiger *kamagong* flooring. "I wanted at least one room done in *kamagong*," he explains, smiling. "Remember, my office is on Kamagong St. in Makati."

Reddish-orange streaks on a brownish-black background make the sala's flooring particularly special in its uniqueness, beauty and luxury. It would be a sin to cover even a tiny portion of that floor with a rug! For this area, the couple decided to have only furniture by Benji Reyes, plus a shiny black baby grand that Mandy says he plays "once in a while."

Three colorful pieces of wooden sculpture, Balinese women with bodies portrayed in snake-like curves, provide the soft touch. A chess table in *narra* and *kamagong*, a gift from Mandy's mom, occupies another place of honor, along with a block of travieza that Mandy has chosen to set up on a base and display alongside the Balinese crafts. He sees art in the block's crack.

Treasure hunt

He likes to recount how he and Chari combed the province for old wood for their home, going as far as the "*liblib ng mga haci-hacienda sa* (nooks and crannies of farm lands in) Bacolod" where they found *travieza*, or old railroad tiles. He purchased 100 of those old *molave* blocks of wood and shipped them to Manila. "I bought them for P100 to P150 a piece five, six years ago. Today, they sell in Manila for P1,200 to P1,500 a piece!"

One of the *traviezas* he has saved. It has the inscription "HP Co., 1893." Research revealed that it stands for "Hawaiian-Pacific Co.," one of the pioneers in the sugar industry in this country. Mandy has sliced up the traviezas which now serve as, among other things, stairs and benches.

All of the doors in the Reyes home are in *kamagong*, except for the main door, a centuries-old find from a junk shop. It originally came from a Binondo warehouse, Mandy volunteers. He has also used antique grills for a porch. When he needed more of the same, he had them copied.

The Benji Reyes set in the formal dining room was originally just on loan for a party that Mandy was hosting. Mandy was having one made at the time of the party. Watching as the table and chairs were hauled out of her house, Benji's wife shook her head. "*Palagay ko, 'di na babalik ang mga 'yan* (I don't think they're coming back)," she said, only half in jest. She was right. In exchange, Benji ended up with the Reyeses' order.

House of stairs

Mandy calls his home a "house of stairs." What happens when they're old and can no longer negotiate staircases? "I have bathrooms all over the place—five or six," he says." Owing also to the multi-level configuration of the house, friends and relatives have expressed concern that the children may fall and hurt themselves.

"My children grew up in a two-level apartment; they're used to it," Mandy says. Proudly, Chari adds, the boys have not broken a single thing or scribbled on the walls.

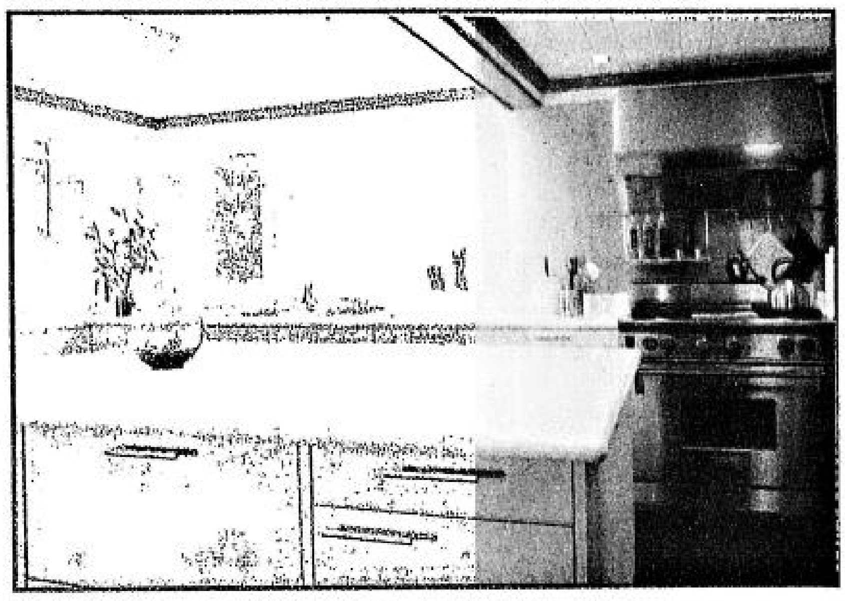
As a commercial director, Mandy says he is attracted to "multi-level" spaces. Even his landscaping makes full use of the property's downhill slope, lending a view of hills covered in trees and of a short stretch of winding road. To preserve this view, Mandy says he wouldn't mind buying the property next to his backyard.

Meanwhile, the Reyes home is a work in progress. Mandy has renovated twice without a contractor, working only with people who do his sets for commercials. He says he learned much from the original construction phase of the house. Right now the eaves are being repaired, and the floors are polished daily to keep their natural sheen.

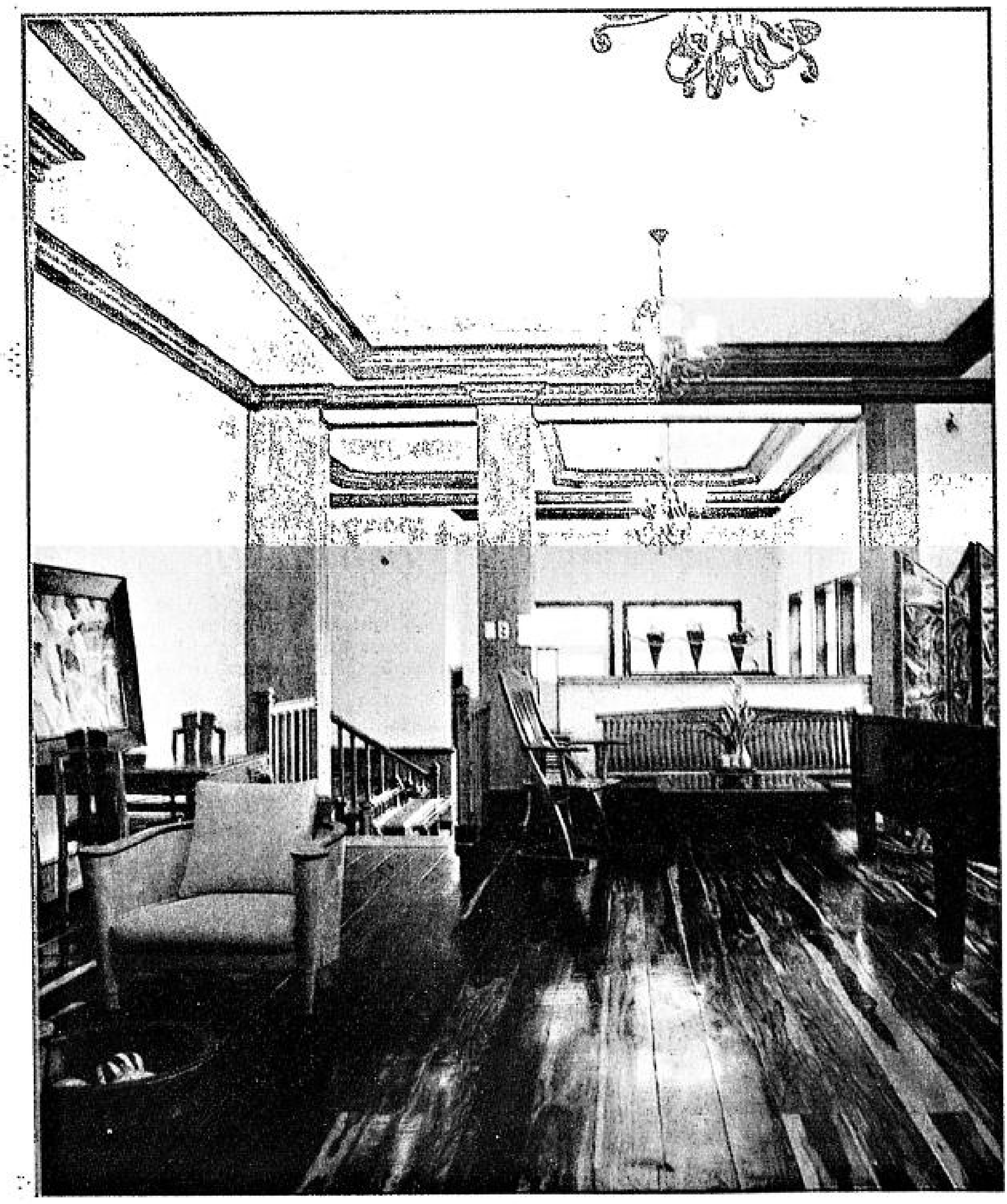
The landscaping continues, too. Butterflies and fireflies are "regulars" in the garden, as are little songbirds.

At first glance the house seems every inch in keeping with the Cottonwoods theme. But closer inspection reveals Mandy's unmistakable marks. For instance, flanking the main door are two mirrors from Bali. At street level, these mirrors already attract attention. Beyond these, little do passersby know of the visual feast inside.

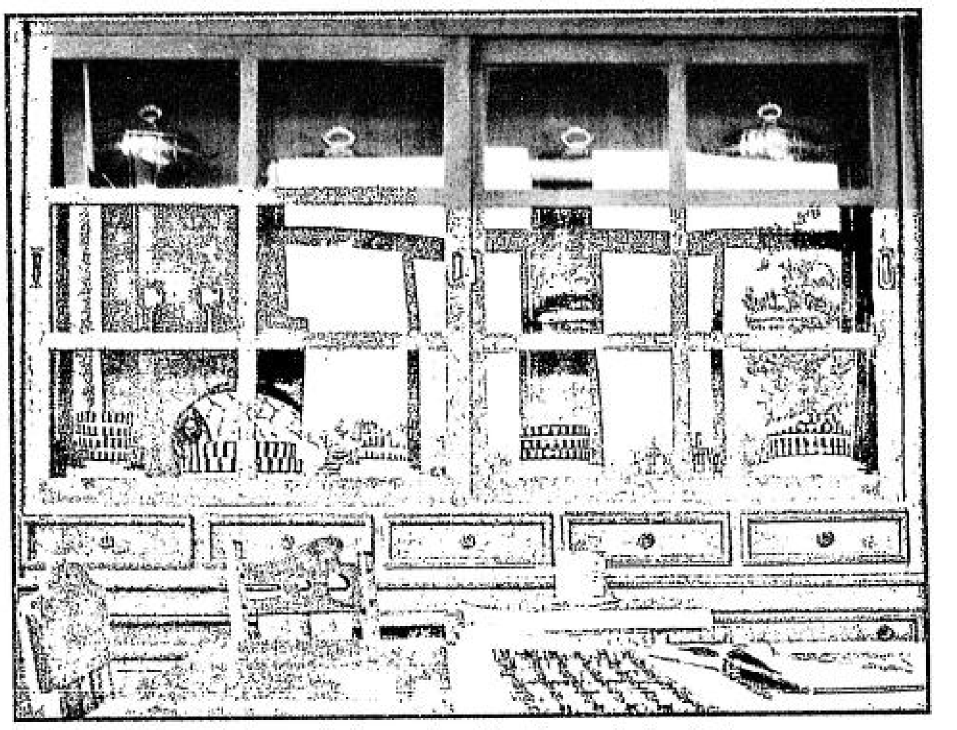
"I provide the form," Mandy says, "and Chari provides the substance."



SLEEK, modern kitchen is softened by earth tones.

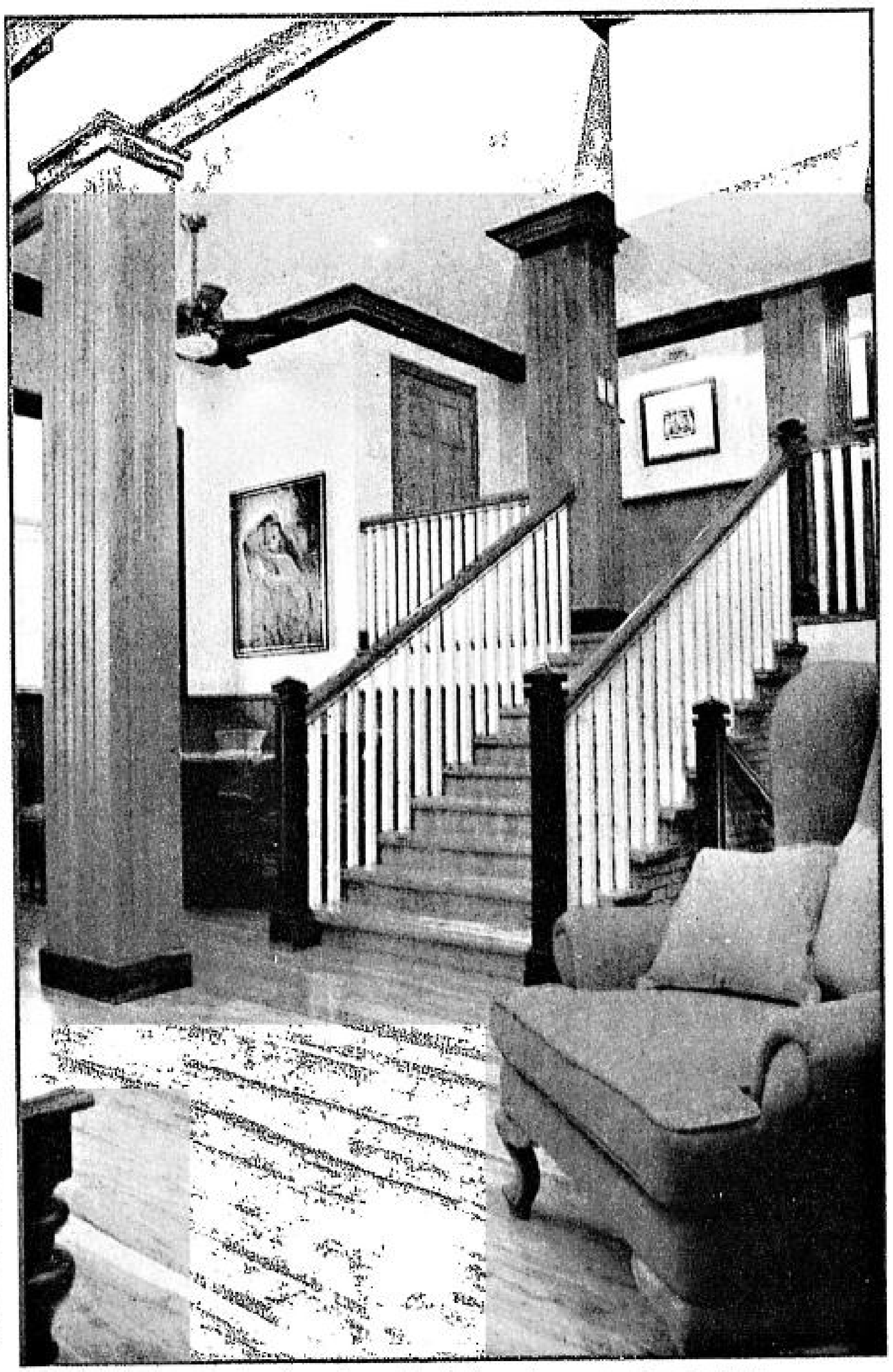


THE REDDISH-ORANGE streaked *kamagong* flooring is a luxury.



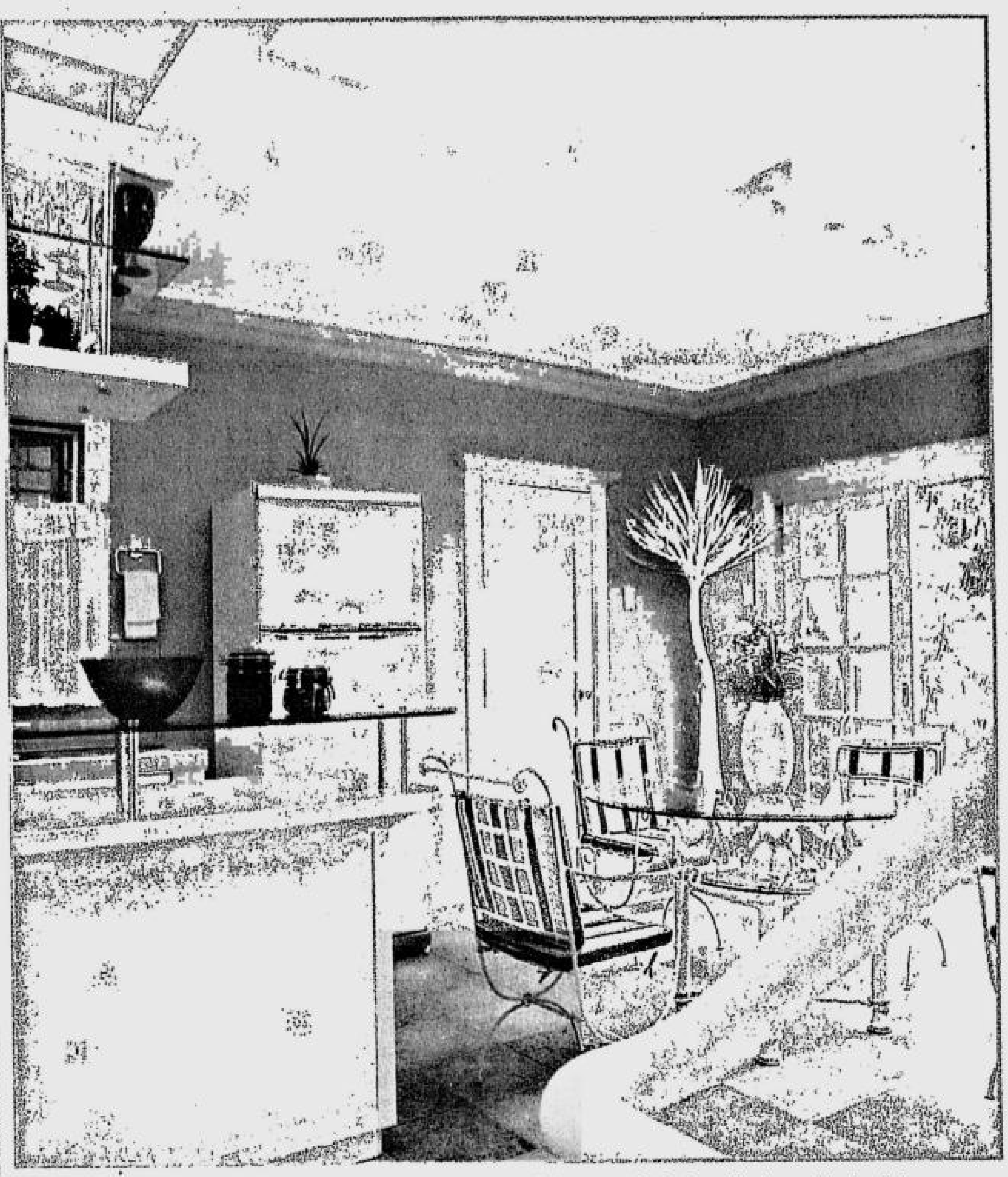
DINING tables and chairs match the wooden cabinet for a cohesive effect.

THE ABSENCE of rug and upholstered furniture emphasizes the look of bare hardwood floors and the natural tones of the furniture. Floor-to-ceiling windows bring the outdoors in.

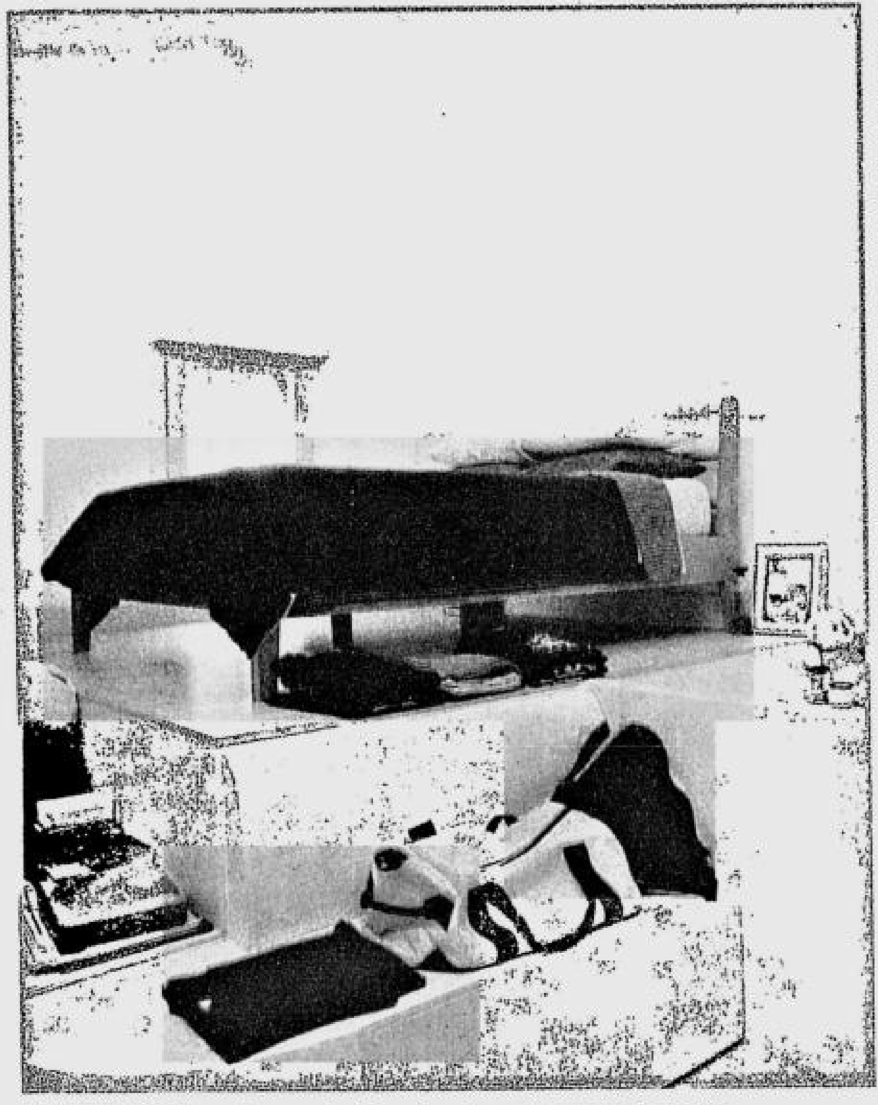


THE MIX-and-match of a variety of woods lends the entry way unadorned charm.

TO MAKE the most of the storage, Nierras devised the shelving that separates the living room from the dining area. Collections from his travels are grouped together according to color.

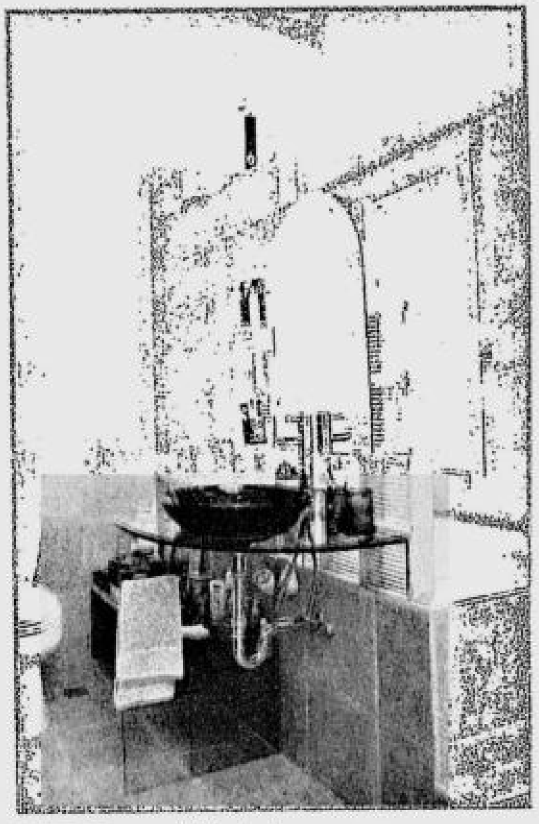


THE VIBRANT yellow refrigerator stands out and pulls together all the warm shades into a lively mood in the dining and kitchen areas. Using recycled furniture and angels, Nierras designed the dining table.



THE BEDROOM pays homage to his performing arts career. It is also his entertainment area.

OPEN storage shows the owner's footwear collection. The window is made into an alcove for another souvenirs collection.



NIERRAS expanded the bathroom space so that the private tub could be an area for his musings.

Space to move

Dance director Douglas Nierras says it's the home he's always wanted

AT HOME in Antipolo, celebrity choreographer Douglas Nierras is clad in a black shirt that screams "Jesus Christ Superstar" in blazing yellow at the back. He wears matching yellow shoes, one of some 60 pairs he owns—so many, they spill out of a bedroom closet. "Imeldific," he jests.

Nierras, father of the group Powerdance and recent Aliw Lifetime Achievement awardee for dance, lives in a village called Cottonwood Heights, or simply Cottonwoods, where he is bathed in the scents of lush vegetation and the sounds of birds in the early mornings and late afternoons.

The village covers 36 hectares of picturesque hills. Its country-style houses look a tad like those exquisite cottages surrounded by pine trees in Baguio City, or even in quiet suburban America. Manicured yards and tinkling chimes in the porches make them look like a page from an old storybook. Dominant use of wood for the exteriors makes all six models seem arts-and-craftsy.

Douglas bought his 217-sq.m. property from Cottonwoods' owner-developer, 360 Degrees Living, a division of Brittany Bay Corp., after being wooed for five years by his broker Ronald Reyes.

Purr-fect

His house is a 153-sq.m. nest, pastel blue on the outside, and with a punched up ceiling and expanded spaces "because I'm claustrophobic." After only a year here, Douglas has found much to purr about.

On account of the fresh air, he has not had an asthma attack since he moved. Lower electric consumption is a bonus in these parts, too. In November and December, not only does the air-conditioner stay turned off; the windows are also shut close to keep out the cold.

And, surprise, surprise: where it took Douglas up to an hour and 15 minutes to drive to work in Shangri-la Mandaluyong from his former apartment in Quezon City, now his commute takes only 50 minutes. The drive home is even better, taking all of 30 minutes.

He adds: "Unlike going down south where traffic seems interminable, coming here, you see where it ends. The drive is worth the distance. Outside, you can feel the wind against your face, massaging your head. And in the village, you feel a certain amount of security."

Douglas still lives with his 92-year-old mother and 89-year-old father. His widowed eldest sister Norma, 70, keeps the three-level house in order. Douglas forbids anyone other than Norma to fix his bedroom.

"The maid is afraid she might break something in there," she laughs. She also lets on about Douglas' sweet tooth: he loves chocolates, which he eats in his bedroom.

Bed on stage

For this shoot, he is reluctant to have the bedroom photographed, insisting it is a mess. The art director assures him: "Don't worry. This way, it looks lived in.".

Douglas quips: "No, it looks harassed in."

The bed is set on a "stage," elevated from the floor. What Douglas likes to call the "*banyo*" is quite literally a "restroom" where he spends a couple of hours a day. "A lot of creative sparks have been kindled in the *banyo*," he says intriguingly. "There's a certain calm in there. It is a quiet, controlled environment where you hear only the sound of water. It is very comforting."

Over Norma's protestations, he thinks nothing of taking a shower at 2 a.m. after work, before retiring. His alibi: "It is worse to go to bed dirty." But he really just loves it there.

Douglas knew exactly what he wanted his house to be like, and patiently waited till he could build it that way. Thus, his pride in the end product is justifiable. He gets a kick out of recounting how he whittled down the price of a couple of wash basins in his *banyo* to P8,500 each from the original tag price of P47,000 each. Several trips to the store, a very helpful salesman, months of waiting for the items to go on sale, and his contractor's discount all bagged for him the slashed-down price.

He envisioned his kitchen sink in no other shape but round. When he went looking, it was hard to find. He and his mates were in Binondo at 5:30 p.m. one day in pursuit. "*Sarado na ang mga tindahan* (the stores were all closed)," but still they had no luck.

Suddenly, he remembered a certain shop came to mind, and off they went. There, waiting, was the last piece of round kitchen sink. Talk about luck when the going gets tough for determined folk. Douglas got his ref, a name brand and painted red—a real standout in the dining room/kitchen—for less than half the tag price of P83,000. How? A dance protegé works for the name brand.

Setting up

Douglas heaps praise on the Cottonwoods team that helped him set up house, holding his hand from start to finish. Together with his architect, they worked on the design of the interiors. The team got together and agreed to minimize their professional fees. In all, he spent about P1 million to modify the basic structure. He is happy with that, considering a friend offered to do the same for double the price.

Because he "choreographed" the entire project, the house was finished in 10 months instead of just four. "Three months just to bleach all the walls," he says. He handpicked the tiles for the dining room/kitchen floor. The contractor set the tiles in a pattern, placing like colors together. Douglas resisted; he wanted "organized chaos." And got it.

In the living room, he has a vintage 1952 Baughmann rattan set. It surrounds a glass-encased angel playing a musical instrument. The backdrop is a neutral beige-yellow. The same color blankets square wooden pillars reaching up to the roof. "I am a color person," he says, "[but] my architect said it would be nice to have a blank canvas on which I can set my colors."

Squeezed between the pillars are shelves which, when lit, set off a collection of objects in crystal sapphire.

"I've always been attracted to blue," Douglas says. He picks an object from the collection and holds it up against the light. "But see, it's not really blue. It's a purplish blue. My birth sign says my favorite color is blue. It pulls me." Some are gifts from friends; some he bought abroad, including stuff he describes as "cheap-angga" (Pinoy gay slang for "inexpensive"), from a dollar store."

The dining room-cum-kitchen loft is accessed from the living room through a low flight of stairs. Here is a round dining table which he himself put together using another collection of objects. "Very Douglas Nierras," friends agree.

"I had this idea of supporting the clear glass top [from his old dining set] with angels," he says. The angels surround an inexpensive basic side table made in Mexico. Garden chairs in wrought iron complete the set.

The dining area opens up to a small trellised lanai. It is through this spot that the sights and sounds of nature step into Douglas' home. He is happy that no neighbors have yet come to pitch tent anywhere near his home to block the breeze or the view. Teased that

SPACE/4

Token fences, good neighbors

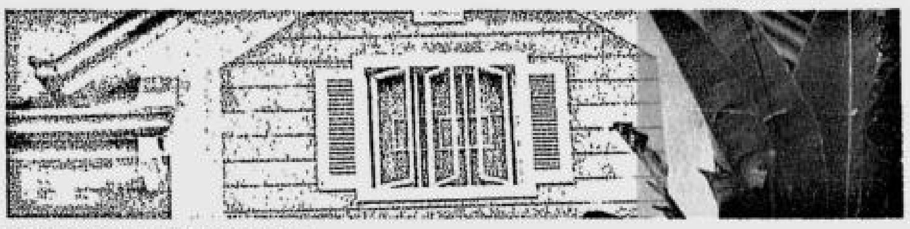
COTTONWOODS homeowners president Edwina Koch Arroyo, an advertising industry pioneer, now has a consulting business that provides design and communications services. Unless meeting with clients like Bukidnon-based Kitanglad AgriVentures, which organically grows and exports fruits, she works from her Cottonwoods residence.

Her office study is tucked away downstairs, beneath the multi-level dining and living areas. The walls are lined with books, including those she has designed, plus some of her other creative works, the earliest of which is a hand of Venus de Milo that she sculpted as a fine arts major in the University of the Philippines. There are plants right outside the window, and trees in the yard.

"Shabby chic" describes her home. The gate is accented with a wooden arbor rising from the white picket fence and a mailbox courtesy of the United States Postal Service. "The houses here are simple," she says of the American country-inspired Cottonwoods homes that are reminiscent of residences in Maine. "What you're actually buying are the trees. Cottonwoods is in the middle of an orchard."

Another attraction of Cottonwoods, she says, is a deed of restriction which discourages forbidding gates and walls often found in other communities. "Here, you tend to cross the street and talk to your neighbors. We make it a point to greet people. We feel free to discuss friendly arrangements such as car pools. There is a sense of community."

SHABBY chic is the theme of the home of an advertising pioneer.



BLUE is Nierras' favorite color.

Space to move

From page 3

he might buy the property next door, he raises a brow.

He has no regrets, he assures anyone who asks. The owner-developers keep their word regarding facilities—telephone, water, electricity—he says. He runs into a problem and they come up with a solution. Most important, he adds, "they take pains to know you, so you are dealing with real people."

Only recently, the Nierras family observed that, while having breakfast, they could be seen from behind the village's perimeter fence. The barangay road behind the fence had been elevated as a result of road concreting. Douglas felt the perimeter fence should be raised as well, and told the developers. The next day, the height of three hollow blocks was added to the fencing.

"The point is, after you've paid your money and built your house, you're not left to fend for yourself," Douglas says. "It's a professional group. Management training is great. It is comforting to know they actually care, that it's not serendipity."

To be sure, it is "not cheap" to live in Cottonwoods," he notes, "but it's worth it."

Avie Gochoco-Perez

Photos by Ava Lugtu
Pictorial direction by Antonio Salac Santos

If this image softens you,
imagine what experiencing it can do.

Imagine a community where butterflies roam freely. A flower laden-porch, white picket fences, rolling hills, and tree-lined streets. A sanctuary of all things soothing and relaxing. Where time stops and everything around you move slowly so you could appreciate life and all things worth living.

Now stop imagining.
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Cottonwoods

VIA ORTIGAS EXTENSION: From Ortigas Ave., go straight until Ortigas Ext. Upon reaching the Circumferential Rd., turn left. Go straight up to a triangle landmark, then turn to Taktak Rd. Turn right at the Circumferential Rd. Go straight ahead until Cottonwoods Drive.

VIA MARCOS HIGHWAY: From Marcos Highway, turn right at the intersection (you'll find Masinag Market on your left). This is now Sumulong Highway. Turn left at the Circumferential Rd., go straight ahead until Cottonwoods Drive.

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Shirley's Pets, The Lunch Box, Atomo and Weboy Page 7

Angels of the Environment

For these little guardians of the environment, there is gold in garbage

James Plays Tag

JAMES Aladin Morata, 8, is a model of cheerful courage. He doesn't let having no legs and only one fully formed hand stop him from playing tag and learning the guitar. The first-grader from Covenant of Grace School, Quezon City wants to be a policeman someday. His parents hope that there will be a better way for James to move around and make his dreams come true. If you would like to help out, you can e-mail his mom at reyah_07@yahoo.com. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A GROUP of students from the Makati Elementary School have been actively involved in a crusade to protect the environment through waste segregation.

Through their club Project Angels, which stands for Agents of New Generation of Environment Lovers and Saviors, the grade school students aim to reduce the solid waste generated by their school and maintain the cleanliness of their surroundings.

"We want to help lessen the volume of trash in Makati City," says sixth-grader Eric Ebia III, Project Angels president. "Through our club, we ensure that the students in our school are reminded about the importance of waste segregation."

PAKILAGAY ANG INYONG PET BOTTLES DITO

TURNING plastic into computers are: Ynna Felizia, Richelle Heide Pontillas, Eric Ebia, Frederick Peradilla, Catherine Bautista, Chermaine Delos Reyes, Norielle Vergara, and Callum Alexander Macpherson. RUDY ESPERAS

Project Angels vice president Ma. Ynna Felizia Lao relates that they remind their fellow students about the project through information campaigns.

"A student in each class is assigned to look after segregation in the classroom level," explains club adviser Dolores Paytan.

In each of the classrooms, separate trash bins are allotted for paper waste, biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste, tin cans and polyethylene terephthalate or PET bottles.

Project Angels members

Angels/ p. 7

Ambassadors of Health

These street kids bring healing to their communities

By Eline Santos

AFRAID to go to the doctor? Go to your fellow kids instead!

Junior Health Workers are street kids who've been trained to help their sick community members. If anyone feels too awkward or afraid to seek medical help, the Junior Health Worker will be there to save the day.

"When my classmate fainted, I was the one who treated her," says 13-year-old Mark Julius Corona, a second-year high school student at Manuel Roxas High School in Manila.

Because of what he did, Mark was invited to train his classmates on how to administer first aid.

Arian Gloriana, also a sophomore at Manuel Roxas, says they help wherever they can, be it in their barangay or school. They prepare a list of those they have helped and replenish their first aid kits as needed.

Last year, 90 JHWs administered 1,001 first aid treatments for wounds, scabies, skin allergies, boils, sore eyes, insect bites, itchiness in the eyes, and minor burns.

Both Arian and Mark are scholars of Childhope Asia Philippines, which started the JHW project in July 1999 together with its sister NGO, Families and Children for Empowerment and Development.

Before becoming a junior health worker, the kids must have attended 10 alternative education sessions which talk about basic health, values, children's rights, avoiding addictive substances, and more.

Those who show leadership skills, the ability to prepare simple reports, and are responsible and caring towards other kids will then be invited to become a JHW. They attend an intensive 4-day training to prepare them for the work ahead.

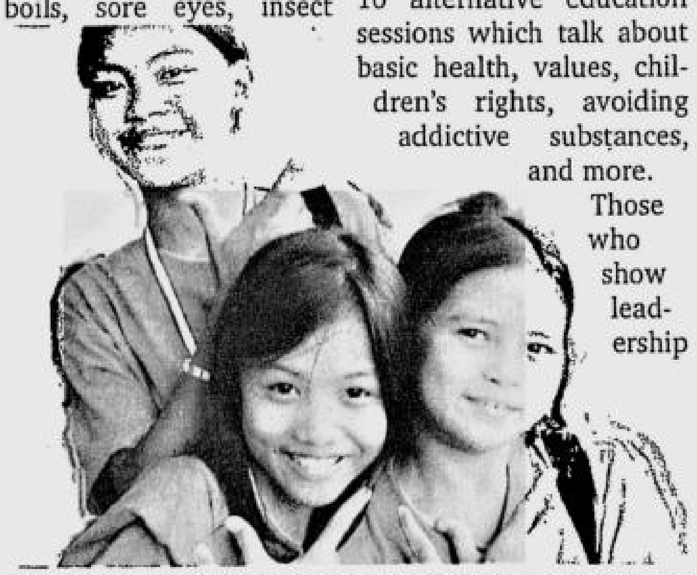
"When you are treating someone, you have to do it properly," says Arian. "If you make a mistake, it could ruin you. You could be blamed."

Sometimes, they encounter distrust and suspicion when parents discourage their kids from asking them for help. They don't let this stop them, though.

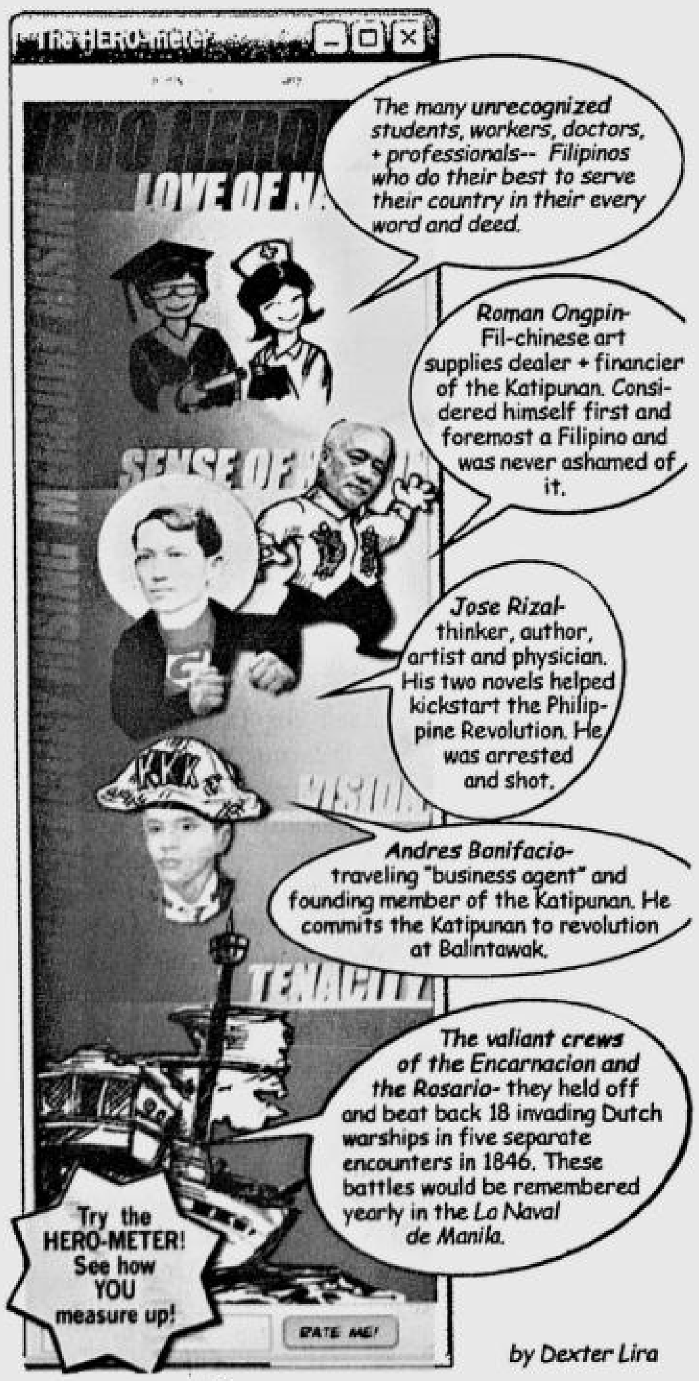
"You learned something but you won't share it. What's the use of that?" asks Mark.

Jayson Ralleca, a sophomore at Manuel Roxas High School, says he was not initially interested in the JHW but joined at his mother's prompting.

Ambassadors/ p. 8



WEARING their trademark green shirts, Michelle, Joy and Mary Ann teach other kids about their right to health. DEXTER LIRA


The HERO-meter
LOVE OF NA
SENSE OF
VISIO
TENACITY
The many unrecognized students, workers, doctors, + professionals-- Filipinos who do their best to serve their country in their every word and deed.
Roman Ongpin- Fil-chinese art supplies dealer + financier of the Katipunan. Considered himself first and foremost a Filipino and was never ashamed of it.
Jose Rizal- thinker, author, artist and physician. His two novels helped kickstart the Philippine Revolution. He was arrested and shot.
KKK
Andres Bonifacio- traveling "business agent" and founding member of the Katipunan. He commits the Katipunan to revolution at Balintawak.
The valiant crews of the Encarnacion and the Rosario- they held off and beat back 18 invading Dutch warships in five separate encounters in 1846. These battles would be remembered yearly in the La Naval de Manila.
Try the HERO-METER! See how YOU measure up!
RATE ME!

by Dexter Lira

My Pinoy Hero

Who is your favorite? Kids chose their heroes for their bravery, selflessness, and patriotism

"MY favorite Filipino hero is Francisco Balagtas, because he wrote many novels about the Philippines. I also idolize him because we are both good in declamation."—*Sigmund Roy G. Pecho, Grade 6, Lourdes School Quezon City*

"Andres Bonifacio because he organized the KKK."—*Ross John Formanes, Grade 6, Colegio de Sta. Ana, Taguig*

"Jose Protacio Rizal because he did not use weapons in fighting against his enemies. Instead, he used his knowledge in writing poems and novels."—*Jardine Precious Miroy, Grade 6, Muntinlupa Elementary School*

"Josefa Llanes Escoda, because even if she is in jail, she helped other prisoners. She also started

My Pinoy/ p. 6

Junior INQUIRER

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2003 Best Children's Newspaper Awardee

Kudos, heroic kids!

WE need all kinds of heroes.

In 1896, we needed the likes of Jose Rizal and Andres Bonifacio to lay down pen and sword for the sake of a fledgling nation.

In 1983, we needed a Ninoy Aquino Jr. to lay down his life on the tarmac and galvanize people to fight a tyrant.

Today we're in more need of heroes to stand up against corruption and self-interest.

Before acclaimed heroes became heroes, they were just ordinary people like you and me. The difference was that they had heroic habits.

If you develop the habit of doing good, no matter how small, that's practice for making the really big, selfless deeds. You don't have to die for the cause you believe in; you just have to give a little of yourself.

Plastic bottles might seem like a small thing, but the kids who recycle them are heroes to Mother Earth. Refusing a plastic bag from a store and using your own bag instead can already make a difference, too.

The Junior Health Workers are heroes to the injured kid they give first aid to or the sick person they bring to the doctor. If you visit a sick friend, you make their day a little better.

Learning how to be an entrepreneur is heroic. An entrepreneur provides services to the customer and jobs for employees. They can improve many people's lives.

Overcoming shyness through guitar-playing, remaining cool under the pressure of a quiz bee question, or playing tag even when you have to use your arms to run—all these things take a measure of courage.

Kudos to all the heroic kids in this issue. And kudos to the heroic kids out there still waiting to be featured. May you continue to develop heroic habits and epitomize Rizal's words... to be the hope of our motherland.

WE need writers

IF YOU'RE 10-12 years old and can write very good essays, news and feature stories, we would like to hear from you! Write a 200-300 word essay about your most memorable experience in school and send it to the editor at nvizcarra@inquirer.com.ph with your contact details.

JOURNAL PAGES

Summer Footprints

By Hedy Harriet Ong
Davao Christian High School
Davao City

ONLY one short week of my two-month summer vacation made my summer meaningful and special: Holy Week.

Aboard the vessel Superferry 16, we left for Zamboanga City. With a family of eight, we packed into a six-bed cabin room. Though we were crowded, the essence of a loving and caring family was palpable. That was a time when I completely understood the meaning and the value of family.

We received a warm welcome from our relatives at 12 midnight upon reaching my mom's hometown.

During our stay, we never failed to dine at Hai San Seafood Market and Restaurant. It's the ambience and the food which matters the most.

Six years may be a long time but I can vividly recall our last visit because it lingers in my heart and has a special place in my memory.

We went back to the places where we used to hang out during our childhood years. My grandma's farm and beaches were on top of the list.

Every dinner time, we would gather around a large table to eat together. We also stayed under one roof. It's somewhat like a grand reunion and it felt so good. I couldn't ask for more.

Day after day passed until it was time for us to go home. It may be hard to say goodbye, but it didn't really matter because I know a goodbye would bring back a thousand hellos when tomorrow comes.

From the city of Zamboanga, we took nothing with us but precious memories. We left nothing but the trail of our footprints. I look forward to the tomorrow that will bring us back, and we would be stepping on the same soil where we've left our footprints this summer.

My Unforgettable Summer

By Ma. Monica Trinidad C. Lualhati
San Beda College-Alabang (St. Benedict College)
Muntinlupa City

ALL of my summer vacations were exciting but this year was really different—something I will never forget.

It started with a blast. As soon as classes ended, I found myself on a 3-hour plane ride to Singapore with Mama and my grandmother. Holidays spent with Grandma are always special events, whether it be a trip to LA or Hong Kong, a week at the beach or a weekend at a local hotel. I was very excited since I've never been to Singapore before. We chatted throughout the flight as Grandma told me about what it was like there. I was so engrossed that the ride went by so fast.

My aunt and her family live in Singapore. We took a cab from the airport to her home. I was really impressed at how clean and organized everything was.

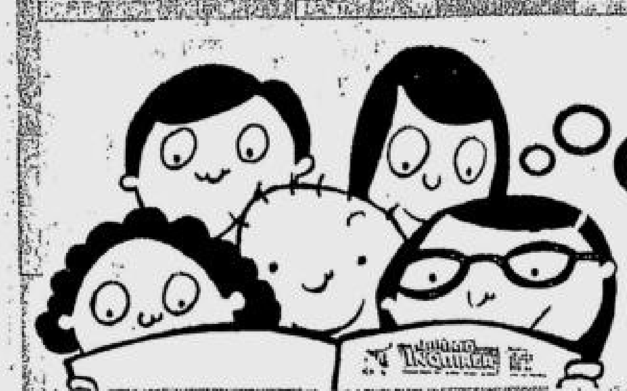
Even during the rush hour, traffic was manageable. The drivers were very courteous. Pedestrians were always given the right of way.

We did a lot of fun things together like watch a movie, explore Bugis Junction, and walk along Orchard Road. We also tried food that Singapore

My Unforgettable/ p. 4

Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!



Straight from JI Readers

You can reach us via e-mail! Our address is ji@inquirer.com.ph
Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and phone number.
Hope to hear from you soon!

Harry Potter Fan

DEAR JI,

Hello! This is me once again, making a comeback.

I'm now 12 years old, and I am studying in Cavite State University, Secondary Education Laboratory School or CvSU-SELS. I'm so busy and nervous about our exams that I almost forgot about JI.

Your Harry Potter issue (May 29, 2004) reminds me that I have to write you again. I am a big fan of Harry Potter. Of course, I especially like the real Potter, Daniel Radcliffe. I gathered all my Harry Potter "smarts" and these Harry Potter updates is for those fans out there. I guess some of the fans do not know about these yet.

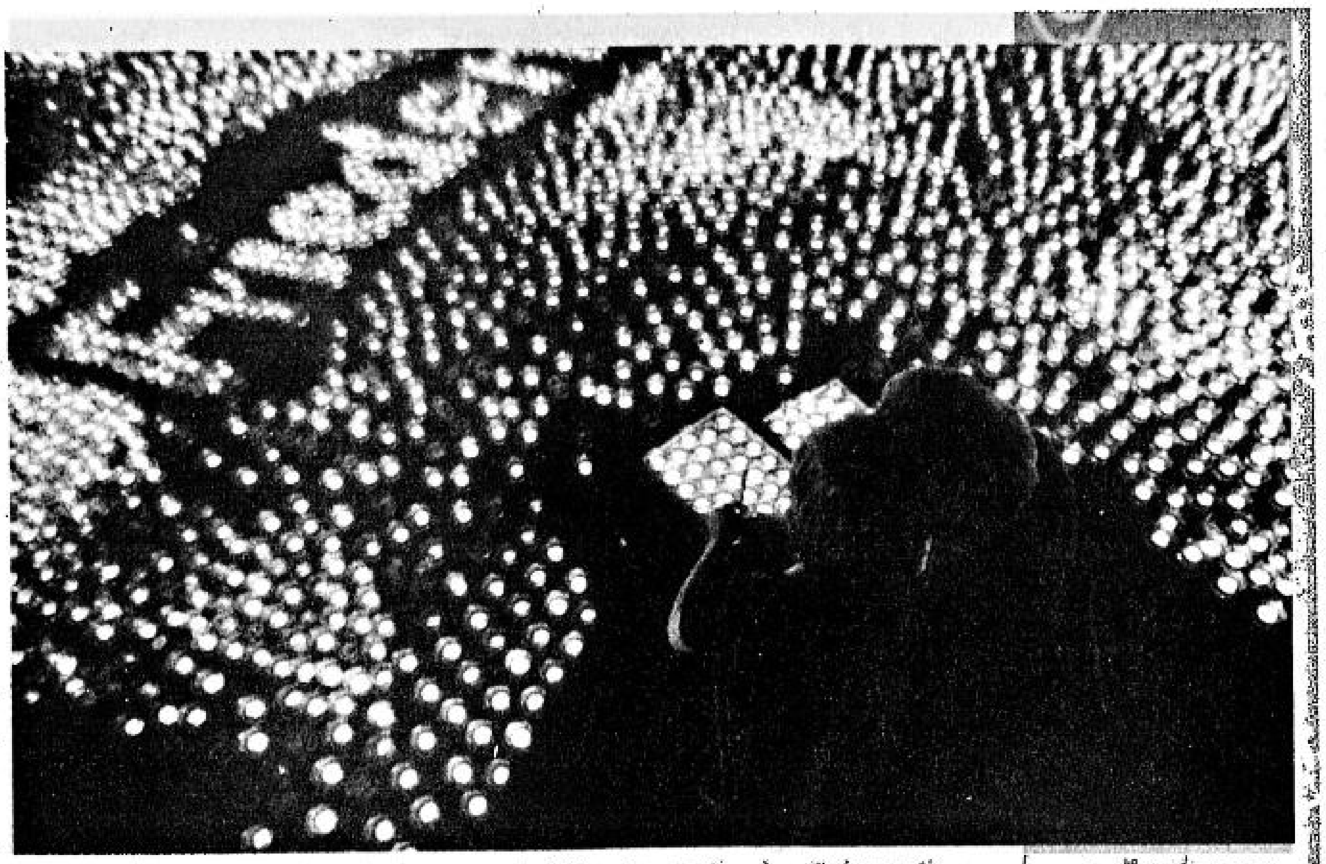
All right, the first one is that J.K. Rowling ranks 6th among the 100 most paid people in the world. Last year, she was in 16th place. The next one is that Harry Potter producers have already found an actress to play Fleur Delacour. She is already taking workshops and is preparing herself for the role. Fleur Delacour is one of the contestants in the Triwizard competition from Beauxbatons Academy. The last one is that, according to rumors, the producers have also found an actress to play Harry's love interest, Cho Chang, but the name of the actress isn't revealed yet.

That's all for Harry, and I do hope that this filled the fans' hunger for more about Harry Potter.—**ROMA AIRIA P. GARCIA**, 12, Cavite State University, Cavite

WORLD SCOPE
Leipzig Germany
Kathmandu, Nepal
Tokyo, Japan
California, USA
Berlin, Germany
Kemaman, Malaysia
Madras India

Tamagotchi Olympics

YUI Akayama smiles as she holds her "gold" Tamagotchi Plus after she captured the first prize in the "Tamalympics," short for Tamagotchi Olympics, at the headquarters of Japanese toy maker Bandai in Tokyo. The event was held to celebrate the sales of the virtual pet which is expected to exceed one million by the end of August. *AFP*

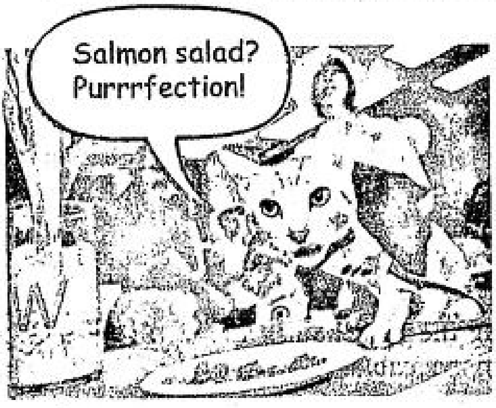


A Million Lights for Children

DANIELA, 21, left, and Lorenz, 20, right, light some of the one million candles that are placed around the Victory Column in Berlin to raise awareness for the suppression and suffering of children in the world. Students from 30 schools in Berlin started the event "Lights for Children-Berlin, One Million City of Lights," which is also being supported by the organization World Vision. Word in center reads: Peace. *AP*

Cat Cafe

A CUSTOMER eats at Meow Mix Cafe, the first cafe for felines which opened in New York. *Reuters*

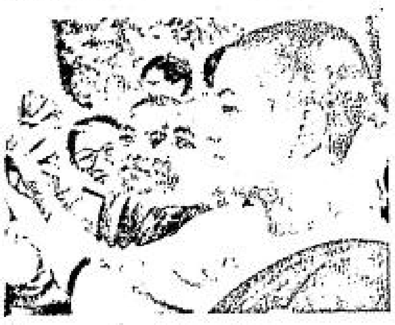

Salmon salad? Purrrfection!

Games Galore

VISITORS can play and test the latest games on PCs, consoles and mobile phones at the "Games Convention" fair in the eastern town of Leipzig. Two hundred seventy exhibitors from 13 countries present their new products of interactive entertainment. *AFP*

SpongeBob's Voice

ACTOR Tom Kenny, the voice of Nickelodeon's SpongeBob SquarePants, poses with the cartoon character at the Hollywood Radio and Television's 10th annual Kids Day. *AFP*

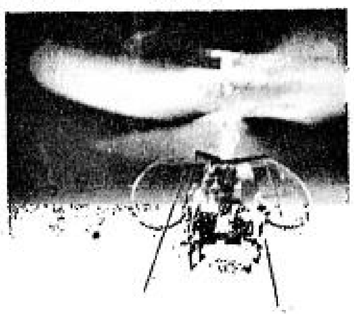


Female Monks for Peace

FEMALE Buddhist monks sign a banner petitioning the government and Maoist rebels to begin peace talks, at Ratna park in the Nepalese capital, Kathmandu. The nationwide signature campaign was organized by the Democratic Youth Organization of Nepal. *Reuters*

Tightrope Walker

PARVATI, 8, entertains the crowd by walking on a tightrope during a road show in the southern Indian city of Madras. Parvati and her family earns about 150 rupees ($3) a day entertaining people. *Reuters*



Flying Microbot

MEASURING 13.6 cm in diameter and 8.5-cm tall, Seiko Epson's micro-flying robot model iFR-II hovers at a demonstration at the company's headquarters in Tokyo. Featuring Bluetooth wireless control, independent flight, and the "world's smallest and lightest" gyro-sensor, the micro-flying robot also has an image sensor unit that can capture and transmit aerial images to a monitor on land, with two LED lamps that can be controlled for signaling. *Reuters*

Turtle Release

LEATHERBACK turtle hatchlings are gathered in a bucket prior to their release at a turtle sanctuary near the eastern town of Kemaman. Several populations of sea turtles in Malaysia are on the brink of collapse and could soon be extinct unless urgent action is taken, scientists warned. *AFP*

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The Battle of Pinaglabanan

Historical fiction by J. E. Royeca
Illustrations by L.A. Mistades

SEÑOR Andres Bonifacio, the Supremo or supreme leader of the Katipunan, was staying temporarily at a Katipunan post in the town of Mandaluyong, together with his fellow Katipuneros. That mountainous place was secure. The Spanish authorities would not be able to find them there.

The Spaniards were hunting them because the Katipunan had been discovered.

The Kataastaasan Kagalangalangang Katipunan Nang Mañgá Anak Nang Bayan, or Katipunan for short, was a secret organization. It wanted to liberate the Philippines by means of an armed revolution, expel the Spaniards from the country, and establish a government ran by Filipinos for Filipinos.

When the Spaniards discovered the existence of the Katipunan on Aug. 19, 1896, Bonifacio and the Katipuneros fled to the wilds north of Manila to avoid arrest. After four days, they reached the safety of the forest.

The next afternoon, Aug. 23, Bonifacio delivered a stirring speech, urging that it was time to rise in arms against the Spaniards.

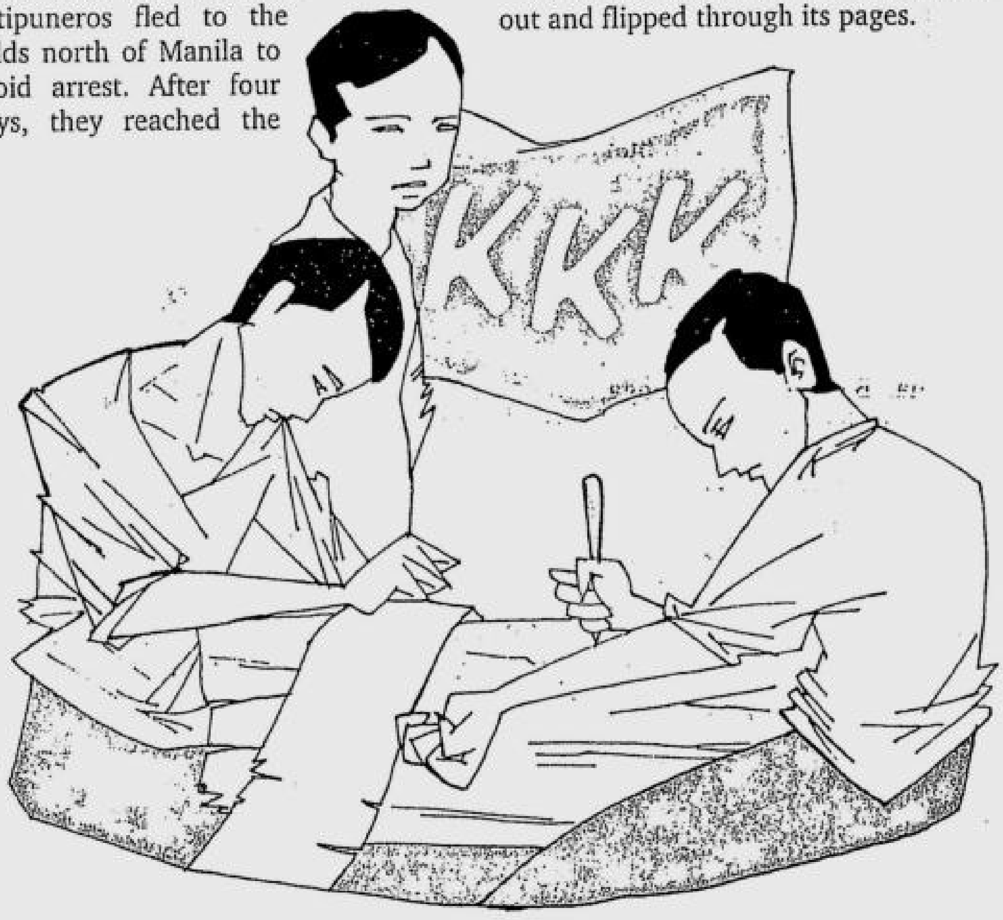
As a sign of their defiance, they took out their identification papers and tore them to pieces. Their cry for freedom reverberates to this day.

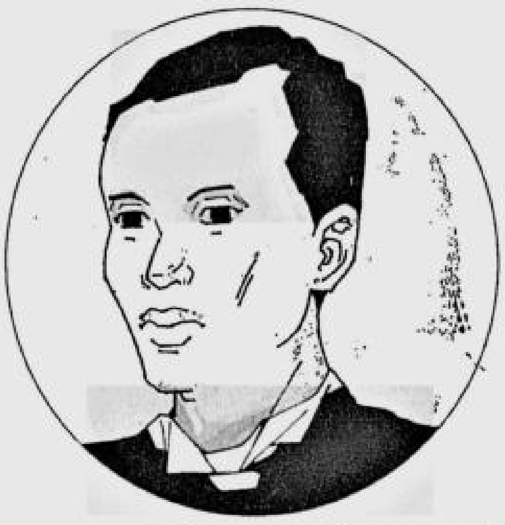
For the next few days, they traversed the wilds and reached Balara where they rested for a while.

FROM the wilds of Balara, they arrived in Mandaluyong on Aug. 28. Bonifacio was alone in a room thinking of how the struggle would begin.

When they fled their homes in Tondo, Manila on the day the Katipunan was exposed, he was able to bring with him Katipunan documents and one copy of the "Noli Me Tangere" and the "El Filibusterismo," the novels of Dr. Jose Rizal—considered as the leading Filipino patriot.

He remembered the "Fili." He fished it out and flipped through its pages.





The novel's hero was Simoun, who formed an underground movement of Filipinos that wanted to free the Philippines by means of an armed resistance.

Simoun sought the help of the youth for his cause. He also asked them to abandon their longing to learn the Spanish language and instead love their own native tongue. The members of his movement used passwords in their activities: Cabesa and Tales.

Like Simoun, Bonifacio founded a movement to free the country. He recruited young men and deputized his 21-year-old brother Procopio and 19-year-old Emilio Jacinto to become his most trusted men.

The Katipunan advocated the use of the native tongue for their activities. They also used passwords to be able to enter their headquarters: Rizal, Gomburza, and Anak ng Bayan.

Bonifacio read Simoun's plan in "Fili": the revolution would begin with a huge explosion at night in Binondo, Manila. Upon hearing the explosion, his followers in the nearby towns would rise in arms and march over to Sta. Mesa, a Manila suburb. They would join a peasant leader named Cabesang Tales in the general attack on Intramuros, the walled city of Manila and the seat of the Spanish colonial government.

Simoun would meet them in the city. He wanted all men to join the revolution. Those who would not join would be treated as enemies and punished.

Bonifacio drew inspiration from the story. He was now able to draw up his plans.

He wrote the following proclamation to the Katipunan leaders:

"Presidents, Councilors, Brethren, we are appealing to all of you: there is an urgent need to rescue the Sons of the People who are now detained and suffering brutal punishment in jails; therefore gather our Brothers and inform them that this Saturday, at 12 midnight, the revolution shall be started simultaneously, in their respective towns; and the attack on Manila shall begin from Balara, pass through the mount of Ugong, cross Guadalupe (San Pedro Makati), and subdue the Civil Guards in Sta. Ana. The Brother who will not agree to the noble sentiments of the people shall be treated as a Traitor and considered an enemy; those who are sick shall be given consideration according to the existing decrees.

"Mount of Liberty 28th of August in the year of our Lord 1896."

(Signed) ANDRES BONIFACIO
Maypagasa,
Supremo of K.K.K.N.M.A.N.B.

Copies of this manifesto were hurriedly made and delivered to the Katipunan leaders in several towns.

AT 11 p.m. the following day, Aug. 29, Bonifacio had readied about 1,000 Katipuneros. They were set to march toward the town of San Juan del Monte, where all the Katipuneros would converge. From there, they would stage the attack on Intramuros.

Bonifacio, Jacinto, Procopio, and other Katipunan leaders had pistols and rifles. The rest of the Katipuneros had bamboo lances and bolos. Almost all of them had amulets and were clad in white cotton shirts and red cotton pants.

Before midnight, they reached San Juan del Monte. The groups they were supposed to meet did not arrive. Only a few came. Others were not able to fully

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IGGY IPIS
BOOK REVIEWS

Books on Beetles, Tadpoles, Shrimps and Sponge Cake

GREETINGS, fellow book lovers!

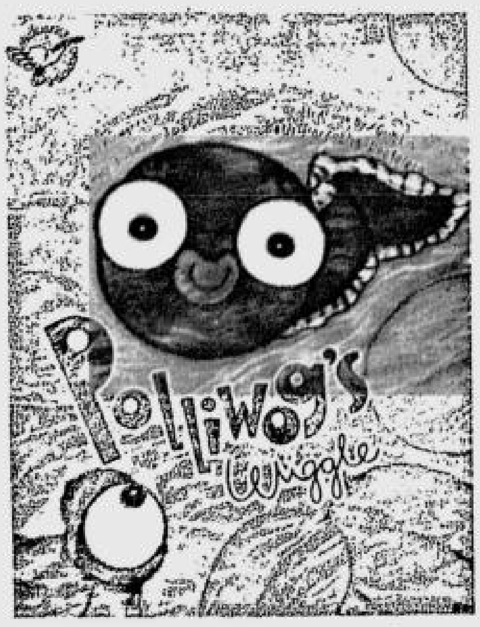
I was flying around the Manila International Book Fair in a state of ecstasy. The number of good books to chew on was just overwhelming!

Here are a few new ones I picked up from Adarna House.

"Filemon Mamon" by Christine Bellen is a story about a fat boy who loves to act. He wants to play the starring role of Andres Bonifacio in a school play except he can't keep his energy up. Will Filemon remain soft as a sponge cake? Check out the story, wonderfully illustrated by Jason Moss.

Filemon Mamon

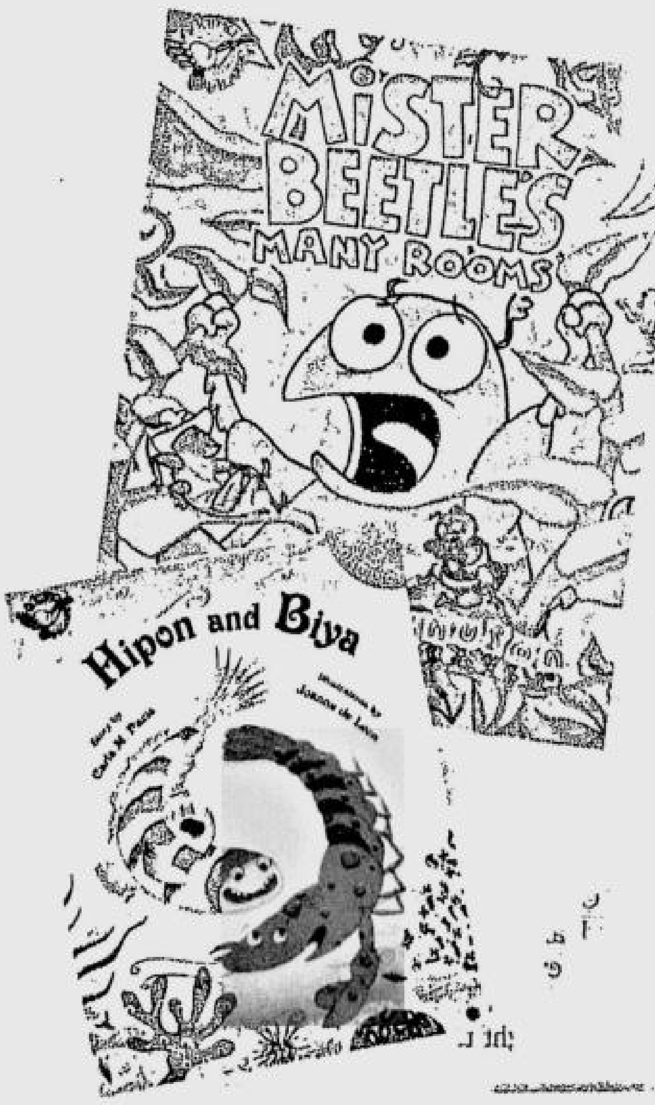
I liked "Polliwog's Wiggle" by Heidi Eusebio-Abad. It tells the story of a tadpole who doesn't realize he's going to grow up into a frog. His minnow fish friends liked him for his wiggle, but will they still like him when he grows into a big, stone-like frog? Will he even like himself? This story is illustrated by Beth Parrocha-Doctolero.



Robert Magnuson fans will love "Mister Beetle's Many Rooms." I personally visited Mr. Beetle's house and checked out the new accommodations in the topmost branches. It's a real cool place to live. Mr. Beetle didn't like his house growing so much at first. Read about how it literally grew on him!

Make friends with "Hipon and Biya," a story by Carla Pacis, illustrated by Joanne de Leon. It's a story of friendship, disagreeing on things, and making up again. Reading how Hipon and Biya learn to appreciate each other for who they are was heart-warming.

That's it for now. If you hear of any new books you'd like to tell other kids about, do email us at ji@inquirer.com.ph. 'Til our next book!



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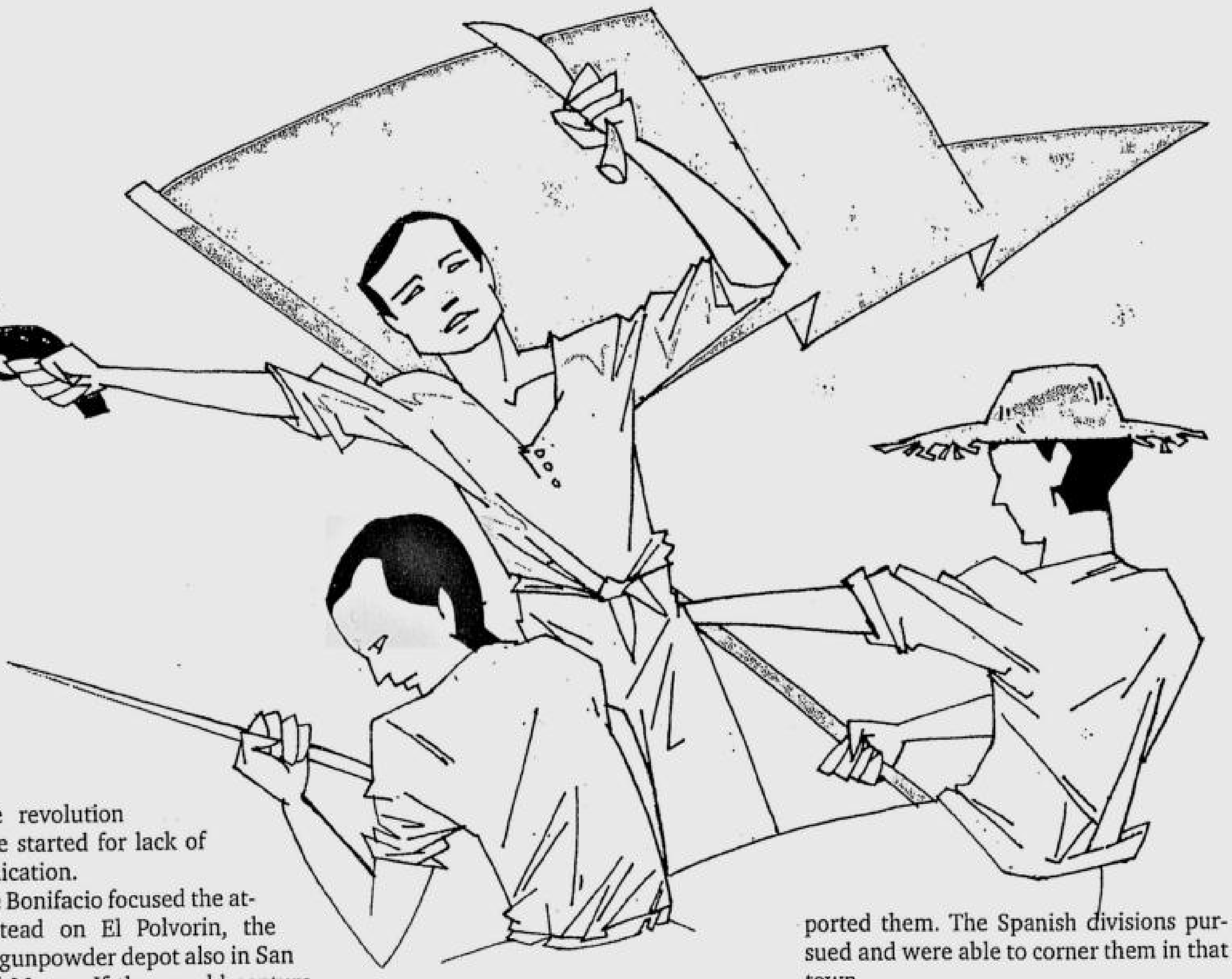


ow
v the revolution uld be started for lack of nmunication.

Hence Bonifacio focused the at- k instead on El Polvorin, the nish gunpowder depot also in San in del Monte. If they could capture depot, they could confiscate arms l ammunition. They could also create explosion there to alert other towns t the revolution had begun—just like ioun's plan in the Fili.

But because it was very dark, the attack the depot would be very difficult. Boni- io decided to stage the attack the next .

DAWN of Aug. 30, he signaled to his ow Katipuneros to begin the siege on depot.

"Advance, brothers!" he ordered.

The soldiers stationed in the depot re caught unprepared. They hurriedly behind the thick limestone walls of depot. Their Mauser rifles and can- is were superior to the old pistols, ri- , bolos, bamboo lances, and amulets of Katipuneros.

Many Katipuneros managed to cross r the depot walls.

Afraid of being killed, the Spanish com- nder in the depot decided to abandon post but retained soldiers there for its t defense. He and his retreating sol- rs moved over to the nearby garrison tecting El Deposito, the water depository supplying water to Manila. He also secretly dispatched men to ask for reinforcements from Intramuros.

ABOUT an hour later, the reinforcement of 100 soldiers arrived. They were headed by General Bernardo Echaluce, the second highest official of the Spanish colonial government in the country after Governor-General Ramon Blanco. He divided his men into several divisions; some were to rescue those in El Polvorin; others were headed for El Deposito.

The fresh troops fired with their cannons and Winchester and Mauser rifles. Each cannon blast killed many Katipuneros hiding behind huge rocks or advancing toward the depot holding only bolos and bamboo lances.

The Katipuneros were surprised by the reinforcement; they were not expecting them. They were now facing several divisions.

When the Spaniards were winning the battle, Bonifacio ordered his men to retreat. But they still maneuvered toward Sta. Mesa in a final attempt to attack Intramuros.

The local Katipunan forces there supported them. The Spanish divisions pursued and were able to corner them in that town.

The Katipuneros finally withdrew. They fled in all directions—rice fields, thickets, forests, etc. Others took bancas in the San Juan River, but the Spaniards still fired on them. The river's water became red with their blood!

BY noon, the battle was over. One hundred fifty three Katipuneros perished in El Polvorin, El Deposito, Sta. Mesa, and in the San Juan River. More than 200 were captured alive.

At 1 p.m., General Blanco proclaimed that Manila and the provinces of Cavite, Bulacan, Laguna, Batangas, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, and Tarlac were in a state of war.

The Philippine Revolution against Spanish rule began that bloody Sunday morning of Aug. 30, 1896. The Filipinos were defeated in the first battle of their revolution, but this battle was the one that united them for the first time.

From then on, they revolted all over the country. Only then were the Filipinos united. It took them a battle and a revolution to think as one nation with one goal: to win their independence from the oppressive foreign domination.

The actual site of the two depots where this battle was fought is now called Pinaglabanan. It is now regarded not only as a pride of the town of San Juan but also as another monument to Filipinos as a liberty-loving people.

J.E. loves to write historical fiction for children.

L.A. is a staff artist of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

A Season Called Summer

By Bemjo T. Torema
Art by Manix Abrera

In that season called summer,
I was always a dreamer
I dreamed on a Friday night and slept
with my face bathed in moonlight.
I remember children
laughing and children playing
And I have memories of a swing
With rainbow-clad children
frolicking in the green grass.
In that season called summer,
it's when I remember
That summer may end
but memories are forever.
In that season called summer,
there's that golden afternoon,
That time when what you
could call invisible was the moon.
Summer was my reason of freedom,
and I shall wait for yet another
summer to come.
In that season called summer,
I walked in a path straight to the sun,
And I shall never forget
all the things I have done.

Bemjo, 12, studies at St. Mary Mazzarello School in Victorias City, Negros Occidental
Manix is the creator of "Kikomachine," a comic strip in the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

My Unforgettable Summer

(from page 2)

is famous for like Hainanese Chicken Rice, Laksa Char Siew Fan and Pepper Crab. A friend invited us to visit the Lord of the Rings Exhibit at the Science Center. I was so fascinated by the special effects and the beautiful costumes.

We spent a lot of time bonding, especially since Grandma and I really missed my cousin Gabe. We'd watch TV and tell stories until late at night.

On our last night, we went to the Night Safari. We rode a tram that brought us around the zoo and it was a totally different experience. One can hardly see some of the animals but you can hear them or feel that they are there. Really impressive!

After 11 wonderful days, it was time to go home.

Grandma developed a cold after we came home and eventually, got very sick. After two weeks, she was brought to the hospital since she had difficulty breathing. We were informed that she had pneumonia and had to be admitted. They did so many tests on her that were surely very painful. She was very weak and had to take a lot of medication. There were several tubes attached to her, together with a monitor.

I would go everyday to see her, try to make her smile, and encourage her to eat. It was so sad to see her that way. Just when we thought that she was getting better, she became critical. Almost all of us were there praying for her. I was able to spend some time alone with her to tell her how much I love her, how thankful I am for all the wonderful things that she has done for me and to say 'Goodbye.' I was crying all the time. I am sure Grandma was sad to leave us but she was really very tired.

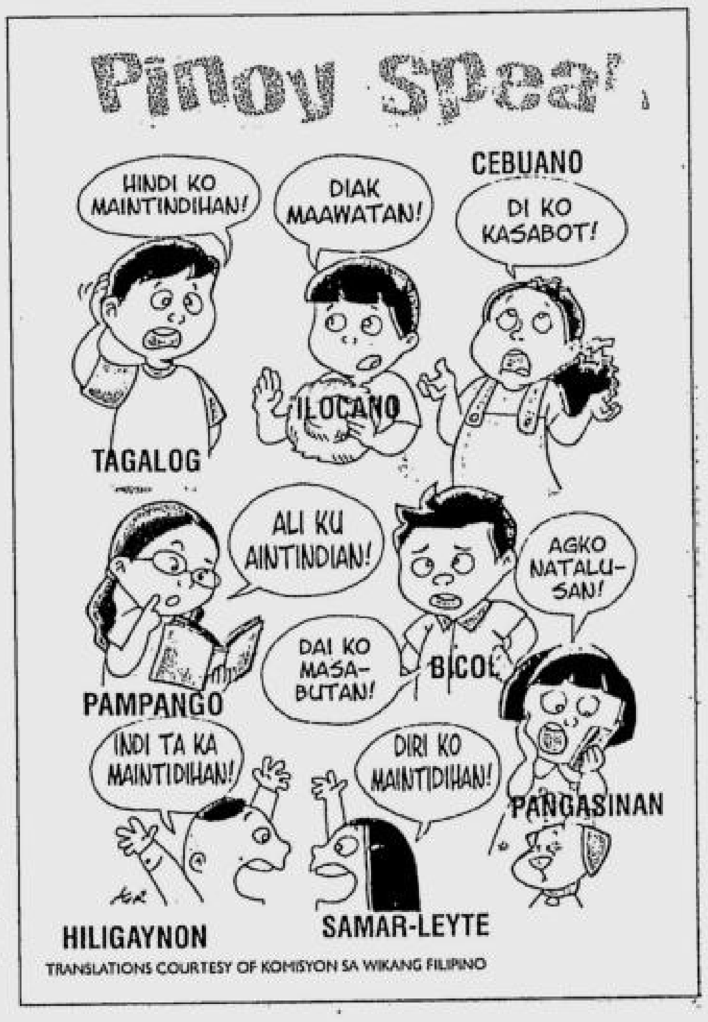
On Friday, April 23, 2004 at 11:59 p.m., my dear Grandma passed away. All of us were crying because we loved her and shared special moments with her in our own way. We had a wake at her parish in Makati and waited for my mother's siblings who were abroad to come home. Grandma was finally buried at the family mausoleum in Biñan, Laguna—her hometown.

I ended up spending the rest of the summer reading, continuing my piano and guitar lessons and missing Grandma terribly. I also helped in fixing up Grandma's house, which will soon be up for lease. My Grandma lived alone after Papa Pons died and all her children got married. My mom and her siblings—all 10 of them!—grew up in that house and they want to keep it in the family. We visited Singapore once more before I went back to school. While I enjoyed myself, it was very different since I no longer had Grandma to share it with.

I had a wonderful holiday with Grandma – the best ever, not knowing that it was going to be our last. I want to remember this summer forever and at the same time, I don't even want to think about it. Grandma's death is really very hard for me. I love her very much. I miss her hugs and all our times together. I know that she loves me and wouldn't want to see me sad. As her namesake, I will try my best to be like her, but my Grandma—Trinidad Casas Cuyegkeng—is such a remarkable woman and definitely a tough act to follow. She has lived a full life.

Even if there are 25 of us grandchildren, I have always felt special with her. I know that she is up there, watching over me, laughing at the silly things I do with her dimples showing. As we always tell each other "Together forever, together in our hearts—Big Trining & Little Trining!" But why do I continue to feel so bad?

Summer, for me, started with so much fun, excitement, laughter and love. And it ended with a heavy heart. Surely, this is an unforgettable summer!



TRANSLATIONS COURTESY OF KOMISYON SA WIKANG FILIPINO

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AN ACOUSTIC PRINCESS

By Margaux C. Ortiz

AT first glance, nobody would think that shy 13-year-old Sharmaine Marie Templado has a gift most kids would wish for: the ability to sing and play the guitar.

And the amazing thing is she taught herself how to strum the strings like a professional acoustic performer!

"I just fiddled with the guitar two years ago, working my way from the simple chords to the more complicated ones," relates Shari, a sophomore student from the School of the Holy Spirit in Quezon City.

Shari used chord charts from song magazines and "chord tabs" from the Internet as a self-study reference.

Adds mom Carmela, "Many of the people we know say Shari has a gift. She also taught herself to play the piano and recorder when she was younger."

Shari's hard work and determination paid off. The look of surprise and enthusiasm on her classmates' faces when she sang and played "Leaving On a Jetplane" during a class performance was reward enough for her.

"They did not know I could sing and play the guitar because I was extremely shy," Shari beamed, adding that she was asked to take part in more school performances after that.

When asked what kind of musician she wants to be someday, Shari says, "I want to be a pop star or an acoustic princess."

The 13-year-old says she could connect more to the audience through acoustic music.

But she acknowledges that the sudden popularity of acoustic performers could only be a fad.

"That is why it is important to train and familiarize yourself on all types of music," she emphasizes.

Aside from taking weekly lessons in voice and guitar, Shari has also joined a local church choir.

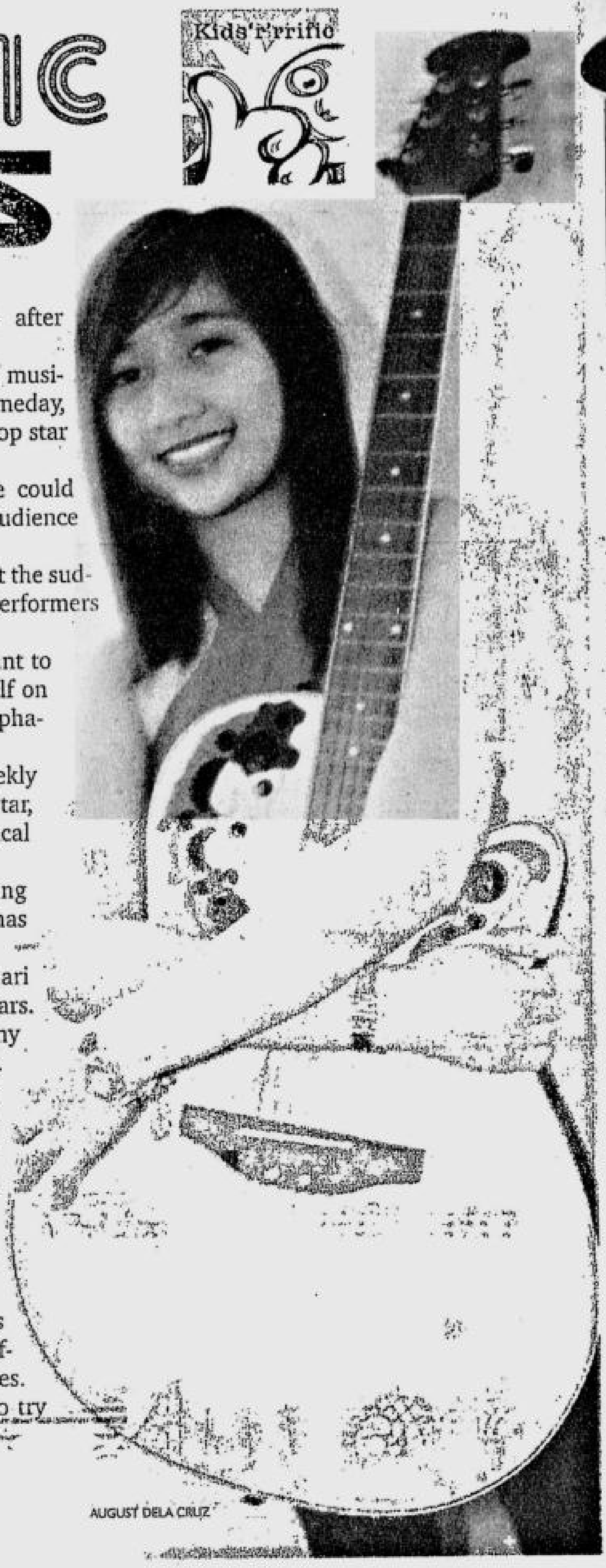
"It is also a way of giving back to God the talent he has given me," she says.

During her free time, Shari fiddles with her three guitars. "It really depends on my mood," she says, smiling. "When I feel frustrated or cool, I play rock songs on my electric guitar. When I feel sentimental, I choose my acoustic guitar."

Her classical guitar, Shari laughs, she uses mainly for practices.

"My love for music has done wonders for my self-confidence," Shari confesses. "I encourage all shy kids to try it."

SHARI can give Paolo Santos a run for his money.



AUGUST DELA CRUZ

R'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
corner Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!

Kids'r'rrific
nomination form

I nominate:______________________
____

Age: ______________________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)
____
____
____
____
____
____

She/he lives at ______________________
____
____

and studies at ______________________
____

Her/his contact number is: ______
____

Sender's Name: ______________________
____

Sender's Age & School:______________
____

Sender's Address: ______________________
____

Sender's Contact No. ______________
____

BUY MY BRACELETS! Bianca is already learning the ropes of business at a young age.

ROGER CARPJO

Bianca's Bracelet Business

At nine, she's already a jet-setting businesswoman

By Eline Santos

WITH a charming smile, 9-year-old Bianca Olivia Romulo invites customers to buy her wares.

She even has her own calling card that reads "Rare Bracelets" because her goods come from the different countries she's visited.

With help from her mom, Ling, Bianca had a booth for three days at the International Marketplace in Toronto, Canada where she sold trinkets from Boracay, Thailand and Singapore.

It was hard work and very tiring. Bianca was at their booth from 11 a.m. until 12 midnight for two days before taking the third one as a day off.

The fourth-grader says the fulfilling part was when people would buy their wares. Part of her job was showing customers how to wear strands of magnetic beads from Bangkok, one of their best-selling items.

"I learn something from every country," says Bianca of her traveling. She enjoyed the libraries, science museums and festivals in Canada. In Thailand, she learned how to tie-dye a scarf and say "thank you" in Thai.

She also makes friendship bracelets to sell.

"I sell them for P30. It's a lot of money because it's really hard work," says the enterprising fourth-grader.

Bianca, with help from her mom, explains that having her own business allows her to pursue her dreams.

"I want to buy a house or a grand piano," the fourth-grader shares her long-term goal. "I want to be a piano player in an orchestra and set up a bracelet business."

Doesn't she already have the business part set up?

"I'll make it bigger and have someone work for me."

My Pinoy Hero

(from page 1)

the Girls Scouts here in the Philippines."—*Jennilin Refugio, Grade 6, UP South School*

"Dr. Jose Rizal because he helped his country by his intelligence."—*Justine Yanto, Grade 5, Upper Bicutan Elementary School*

"Lapu-Lapu, because even if they only had *kampilans* and spears, they defeated the Spaniards that used guns."—*Lawrence Anthony Dimailig, Grade 6, Muntinlupa Elementary School*

"Jose Rizal because he gave his life for our country."—*Dolly Ann Sevilleno, Grade 6, Baclaran Elementary School*

National Super Quiz Bee eliminations going on

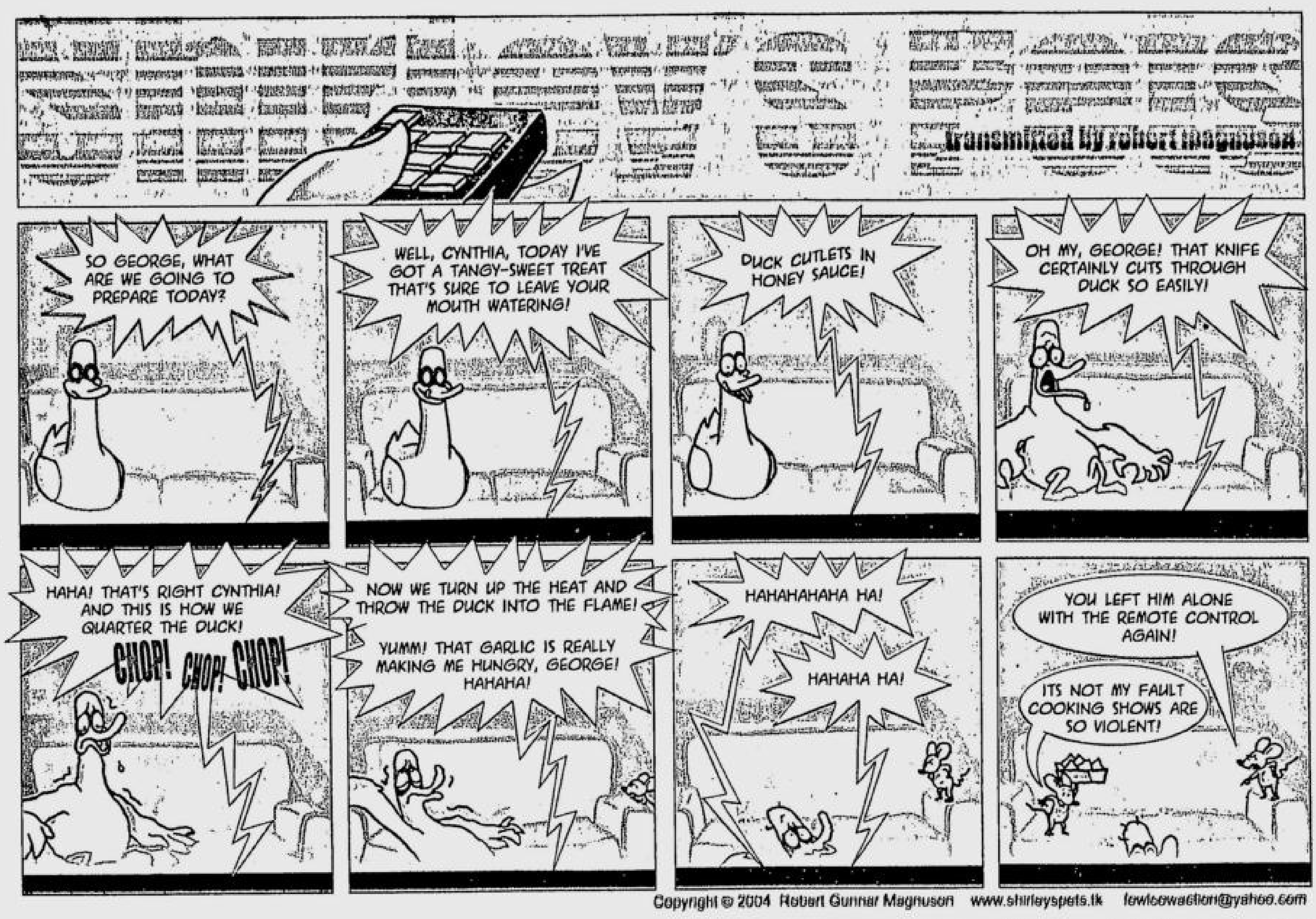
MANY of the kids who answered our JUNIOR INQUIRER survey were contestants or audience members in the second division level eliminations of the 25th National Super Quiz Bee.

Public and private schools from Muntinlupa, Taguig, Pateros, Parañaque, and Las Piñas area competed in the Makabayan and Mathematics categories last Aug. 19 in the hopes of competing in the grand finals in December.

In the Makabayan category, sixth-grader Nixon Uy of Manuyo Elementary School, Las Piñas won first place. Mark Anthony Caro of Talon Elementary School, Las Piñas was first runner-up.

In the Mathematics category, Paco Adajar, a seventh-grader of PAREF Southridge, Muntinlupa won first place. Rigel Espiritu, a sixth-grader from San Beda College-Alabang (St. Benedict College), was first runner-up.—*Eline Santos*

EVENLY MATCHED. Rigel and Paco are so good in math that they each had only one mistake during the regular rounds. They had four tie-breakers before someone won. Both train with the Mathematics Trainers Guild.


Transmitted by robert magnuson
SO GEORGE, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO PREPARE TODAY?
WELL, CYNTHIA, TODAY I'VE GOT A TANGY-SWEET TREAT THAT'S SURE TO LEAVE YOUR MOUTH WATERING!
DUCK CUTLETS IN HONEY SAUCE!
OH MY, GEORGE! THAT KNIFE CERTAINLY CUTS THROUGH DUCK SO EASILY!
HAHA! THAT'S RIGHT CYNTHIA! AND THIS IS HOW WE QUARTER THE DUCK!
CHOP! CHOP! CHOP!
NOW WE TURN UP THE HEAT AND THROW THE DUCK INTO THE FLAME!
YUMM! THAT GARLIC IS REALLY MAKING ME HUNGRY, GEORGE! HAHAHA!
HAHAHAHAHA HA!
HAHAHA HA!
YOU LEFT HIM ALONE WITH THE REMOTE CONTROL AGAIN!
ITS NOT MY FAULT COOKING SHOWS ARE SO VIOLENT!

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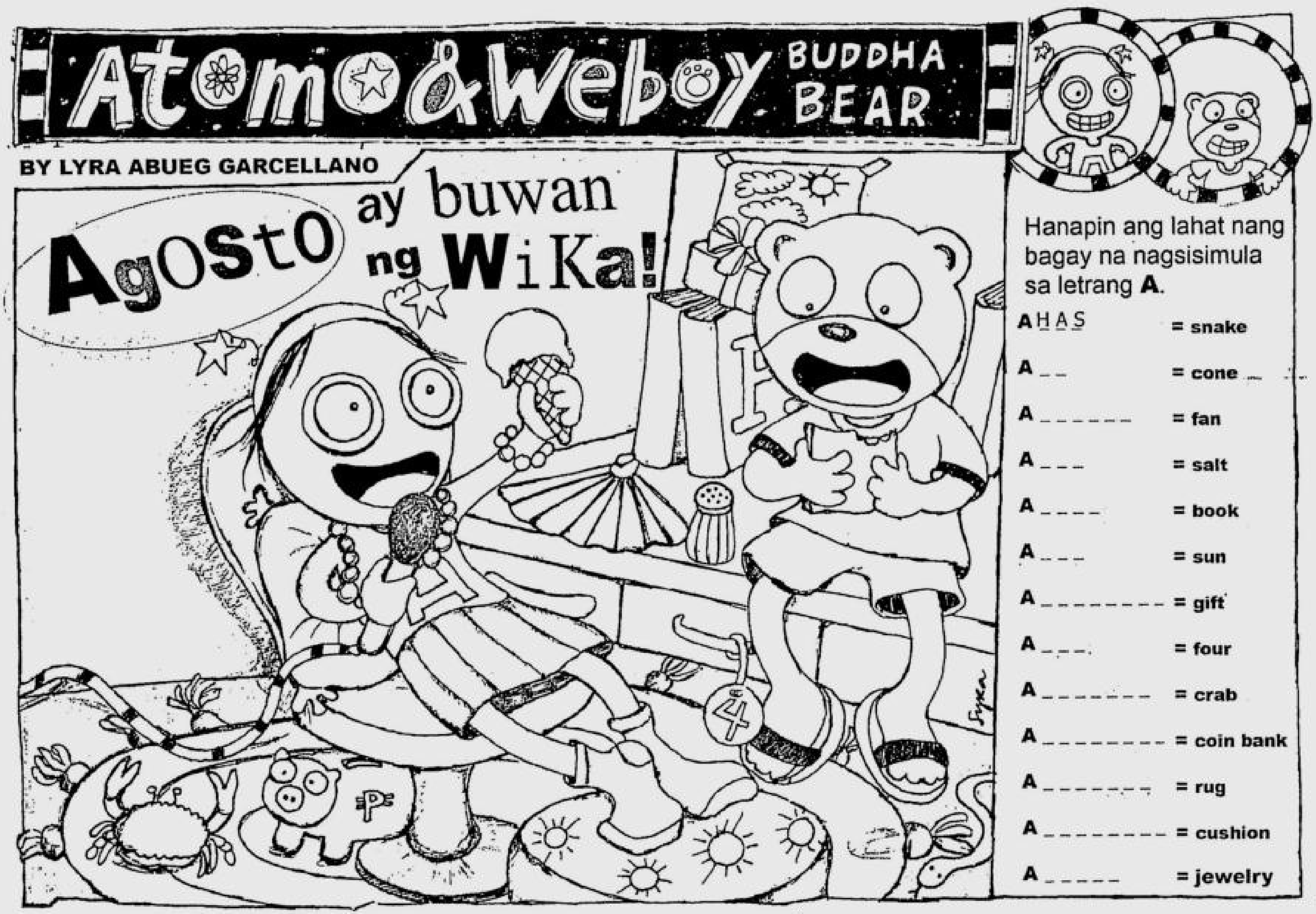
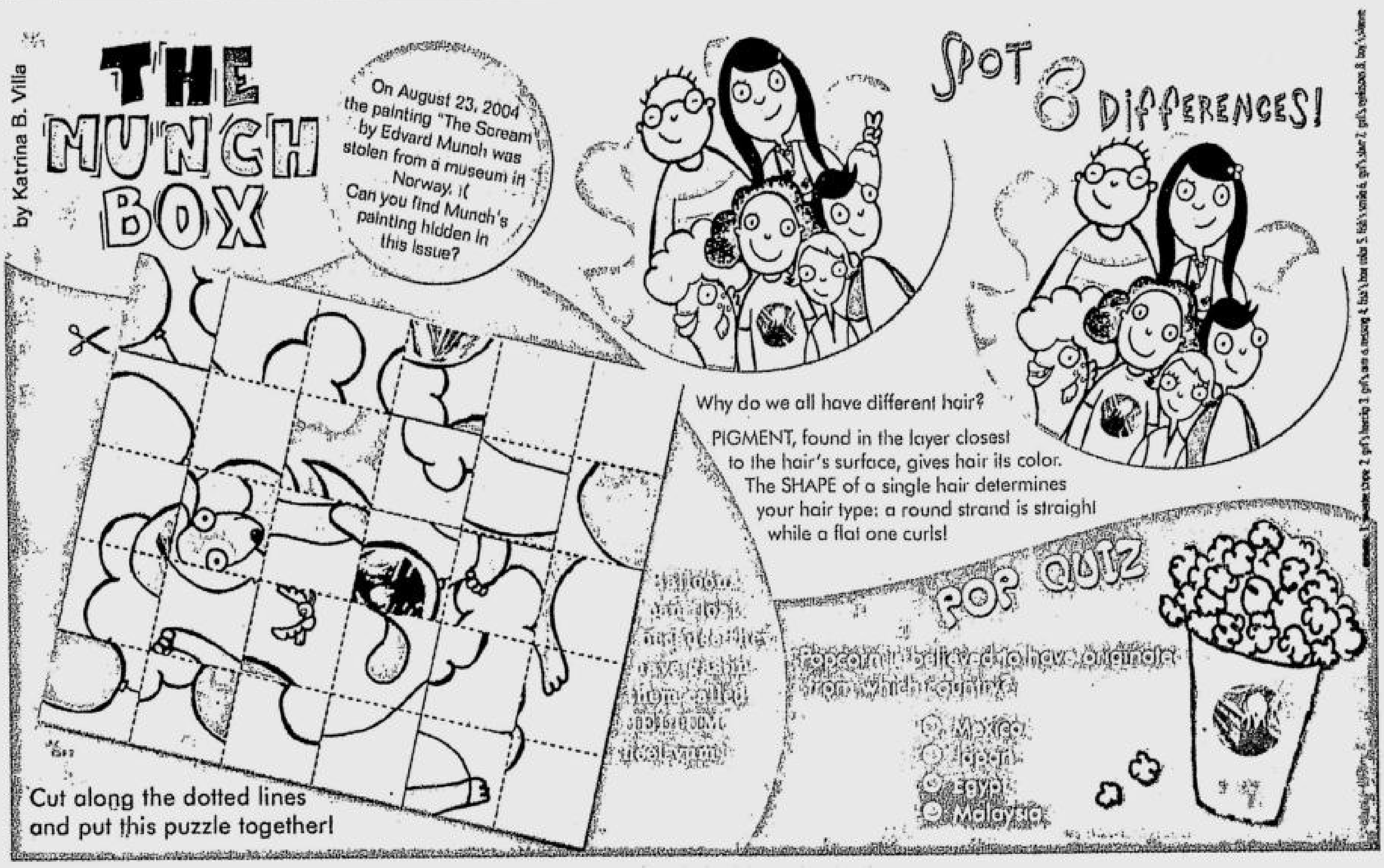
Atomo & Weboy BUDDHA BEAR

BY LYRA ABUEG GARCELLANO


Agosto ay buwan ng Wika!
Syra

Hanapin ang lahat nang bagay na nagsisimula sa letrang **A**.

AHAS = snake
A _ _ = cone
A _ _ _ _ _ _ = fan
A _ _ _ = salt
A _ _ _ _ = book
A _ _ _ = sun
A _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ = gift
A _ _ _ = four
A _ _ _ _ _ _ _ = crab
A _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ = coin bank
A _ _ _ _ _ _ _ = rug
A _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ = cushion
A _ _ _ _ _ = jewelry


THE MUNCH BOX
SPOT 8 DIFFERENCES!
POP QUIZ

by Katrina B. Villa

On August 23, 2004 the painting "The Scream" by Edvard Munch was stolen from a museum in Norway. Can you find Munch's painting hidden in this issue?

Cut along the dotted lines and put this puzzle together!

Why do we all have different hair?

PIGMENT, found in the layer closest to the hair's surface, gives hair its color. The SHAPE of a single hair determines your hair type: a round strand is straight while a flat one curls!

Popcorn is believed to have originated from which country?

○ Mexico
○ Japan
○ Egypt
○ Malaysia

Angels of the Environment

(from page 1)

then collect the garbage every Friday and bring them to a special "sorting room."

Club auditor Richelle Heide Pontillas says they are tasked to separate the white from the brown papers inside the sorting room. She adds that they also put aside the crumpled papers and cardboards.

Richelle also says that they flatten the tin cans so they don't take up so much space when brought to the junk shop.

"We actually do not think about the gross aspect of handling the trash," Eric explains, adding that they make sure to wash their hands after sorting the garbage.

Mrs. Paytan says the kids then sell the sorted trash to the junk shops.

The Angels actually earned P5,233 just from selling garbage in the last two months!

"The proceeds go to different school endeavors," Mrs. Paytan says.

"This way, the whole school benefits from the Angels' project."

The Angels however say that the segregation of the PET bottles is a totally different thing.

Eric says they bring the bottles to a special hut to be flattened before they are collected by San Miguel Corporation (SMC) representatives for weighing.

Mrs. Paytan says that the city government launched the PET recycling campaign in collaboration with SMC last February.

Under the campaign, SMC personnel gather the plastic bottles from Makati's public schools every month and assign a corresponding number of points for every kilogram of bottles collected.

The students would then have the option to accumulate the points and convert them into prizes like computers, photocopying machines, and printers.

When asked what they want for their school, the Angels chorused that "a new scanner or television viewer would be nice."

"But more than the prize, it's the thought that we have protected the environment from dirt and pollution that counts," says Ynna.

If only Mother Earth could speak, she would have told these Angels to continue their good work.

Students celebrate Filipino language

By Eline Santos

PINOY food and costumes abounded in schools during the celebration of Buwan ng Wika.

While San Beda College, Manila had their parade and food festival to kick off the celebration, Lourdes School Quezon City had it as a culminating activity.

Bedans dressed in Barong Tagalogs, Ifugao weave, camiso chinos, and Muslim outfits to vie for best costume.

It was however the third year high school students dressed as jeepney drivers who won as best dressed group. They wore plain white shirts, jeans and a white towel around their necks.

There was a sumptuous spread of *pansit, palabok, puto, bibingka, dinuguan,* and other yummy Pinoy foods in each classroom.

Fourth-grader Marixon Ong says he likes *malagkit* best.

"It's really delicious and different," says Marixon.

This year's theme is "Wikang Filipino sa Kaunlarang Pangkabuhayan, Kapayapaan at Pagkakaisa."

More fundamental than progress, peace and unity, for Bedan fourth-grader Chriss Warren Robles, the value of language is in communication.

"If we don't know our own language, we wouldn't be able to talk to those who do know it," Chriss says.

While knowing other languages like English is essential to functioning in a global community, Chriss says, "We should not neglect our own language."

For San Beda sixth-grader Jayvee Fulgencio, it's a matter of identity.

"How can we be Filipinos if we don't have our language?" asks Jayvee.

Contests

Different contests were held to show off students' mastery of Filipino.

In Lourdes School, students from each grade level had a storytelling contest.

John Chrysler Dallarte, who won first place among the second graders, says the secret to winning is confidence.

"I believe in myself, that's why I won," John explains.

Joseph Novilunio, who won second place, credits the loudness of his voice and reading the story with feelings.

Theodore Joseph Albaza, who won third place for the Grade 6 level, says using our own language is something to be proud of.

"Language is our trademark... it's the means to show that we are true Filipinos," agrees Norman Mascariñas, second placer for the sixth grade.

"I wish we would place a value on using our own language," says Raymond Magsaysay Jr., who won second place for the Grade 4 level. "This is all we have that other countries do not, so we should cherish it."

PUTO KAYO D'YAN. Noel, Juan Paolo, Bryan, Jacob, John Paul, and Raymond are among the best storytellers in Lourdes.

(Top) **BEDANS** are all smiles during their parade of costumes.

Ambassadors of Health (from page 1)

DEXTER LIRA

JOY demonstrates how to cut one's fingernails.

Jayson is glad he did. Aside from helping other kids, he keeps learning new things like how to give CPR to someone unconscious.

Eleven-year-old Pearly Joy Managaytay, a sixth-grader at Camuning Elementary School in Quezon City, is one of the youngest JHWs yet.

Teaming up with Mary Ann Caballero, 12, Michelle Ligayu, 12, and Jake Perdido, 13, Joy helps their adult street educators conduct a lesson on cleanliness.

At the same time, they give first aid to those who need it. Raymart Morales, who injured his foot and shin earlier, is one of their patients for the day.

JHWs also refer those with more serious illnesses to the proper health authorities. They interview the sick person and fill out a "Health Screening Tool," which provides the doctor with the information he needs.

Mary Ann, a sixth-grader at Camuning Elementary School, says she wants to be in the medical profession someday. Having experienced being wounded herself when her foot was run over, Mary Ann wants to return the favor of being healed.

"I want to help people who are sick. I want to give them free medicine."

Mary Ann may not be a licensed nurse now, but she and 119 junior health workers are already doing exactly that.

OUT THERE

By Christine A. Paita

Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax number is 897-4794, and our e-mail address is ji@inquirer.com.ph.

Contests

BEST NATURE STORIES. The search is on for the country's best young environmentalist writers. Rizal Banking Commercial Corp. (RCBC) invites students to join its 11th **Kuwentong Kalikasan** Katha ng Kabataan short story writing contest. This year's theme is saving the endangered spe cies of the Philippines. The grand prize winner will bring home a cash prize of P30,000 and a trophy. All entries should be submitted on or before Nov. 8 to the nearest RCBC Business Center. For inquiries, please call Ms Bebeth Sison at 885-7811 local 802.

EXCELLENT KIDS. Cartoon Network is once again in **search of excellent kids** this side of the planet! Six outstanding boys and girls from Metro Manila will be awarded the Cartoon Network Awards of Excellence in Leadership, the Arts and Sports. The search is open to Filipino kids ages 10 to 16 from schools in Metro Manila. For more info, please call Perceptions at 891-3485.

POSTER-MAKING. The Citizens' Disaster Response Center (CDRC) is now accepting entries to its **poster-making contest** dubbed "Apoy, Bagyo, Kalamidad, Dibuhong Pambata." The contest is open to kids ages 7 to 12. For each category (A and B), kids can choose from a set of disaster types as the subject for their design. Entries must be in on Sept. 15. For more info, please call 927-7860 or 929-982. E-mail at rpidcdrc@i-mail.com.ph.

Activities

SCHOOL TOUR FOR A CAUSE. Bic and Hallmark Cards are conducting a free "Revive the Lost Art of Writing" tour around schools in Metro Manila and Luzon. Activities include **spelling and writing contests,** art lessons, and workshops on balloon twisting and scrapbook making. Interested schools may call Filstar Distributors Corp. at 671-0555.

SCIENCE CLUBBING. The Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs will celebrate Science Club Month in September with the theme "SCI: Science Clubbing... Intensified!" The first nationwide PSYSC Science Olympiad will be on Sept. 24. Inquire at 920-8174 or 920-9561, or e-mail psysc_inc@hotmail.com.

Cable Picks

BARBIE ENCHANTMENT. Barbie plays Odette in an adaptation of the fairy tale "Swan Lake." Learn more about Odette, a young girl who is a swan by day but mystically transforms into a human at night. "Swan Lake" airs on Aug. 28, 8 p.m., and Aug. 29 at 11 a.m. on Cartoon Network.

"THE Lightning Spirit's Daughter"

ASIAN LEGENDS. Catch the latest episodes of the Legends of the Ring of Fire: India's "How the Nightingale Became the King of the Birds" and Taiwan's The Lightning Spirit's Daughter." Tune in on Aug. 28 and 29, 7:30 p.m. on the Disney Channel.

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT